mamotte shugogetten

Minene Sakurano

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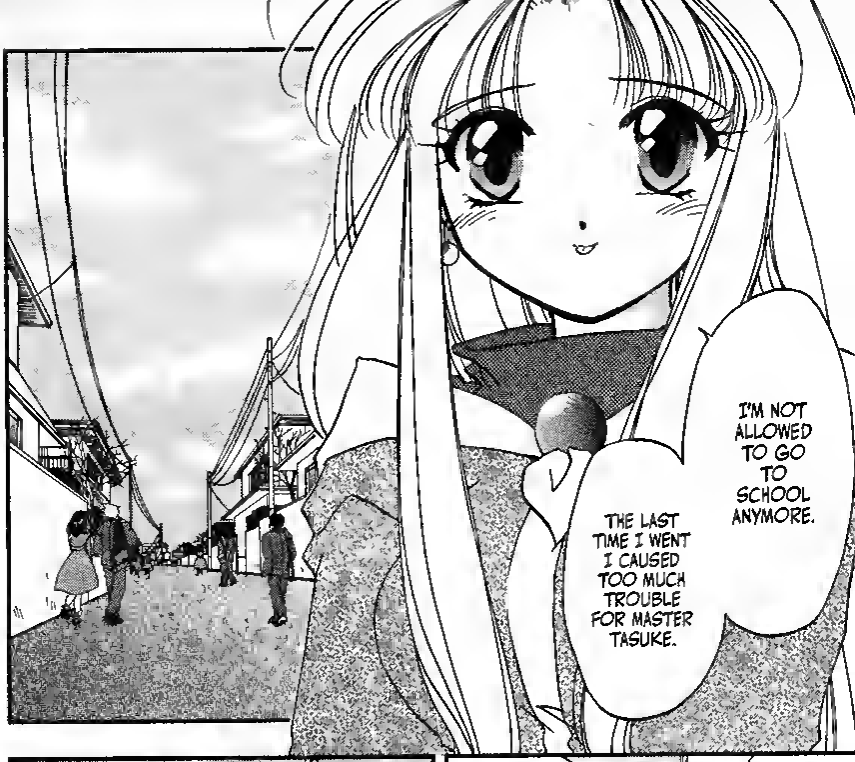
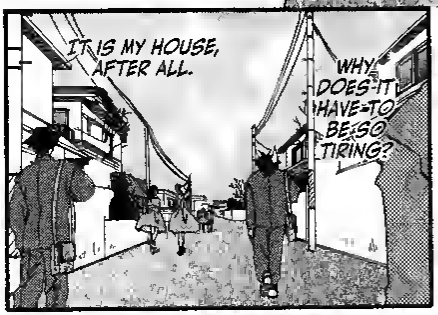
CHAPTER 8
RUUAN GOES TO SCHOOL!

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT A LOT LATELY.
WHAT ARE...
...PEACE AND QUIET?
スタ
UH...
ガチャ
GOOD MORNING.

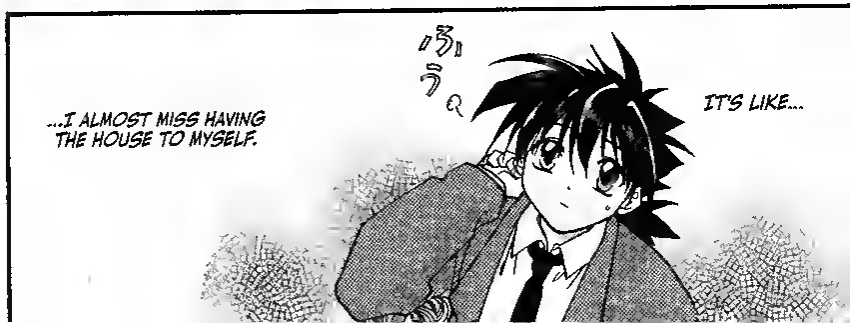
OH MY GOODNESS, THE KNIFE FLEW RIGHT OUTTA MY HAND.
EVEN A KNIFE WILL FLEE FROM THE TASK OF CUTTING STONE.
OH.
I WAS JUST TRYING TO SEE HOW SHARP IT WAS!
GOOD MORNING.
MASTER TASUKE
NNNG... MORNING.
OH, THANK YOU, RISHU
I WONDER HOW MUCH FORCE THE CUTTING BOARD CAN HANDLE.
HEY! DON'T FLY AWAY FROM ME! CUTTING BOARD!

THANKS...
...FOR BREAKFAST.
I'M HEADING OUT.
OKAY, HAVE A NICE DAY.
WAIT, MASTER TAA, WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
OH! MISS RUUAN, YOU MUST NOT FOLLOW HIM!
MASTER TASUKE IS GOING TO SCHOOL.
BECAUSE TODAY IS MONDAY
SCHOOL?
WHAT'S THIS SCHOOL BUSINESS, AND WHY AREN'T YOU GOING WITH HIM?
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO MASTER?
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT, RISHU IS WITH HIM.
I... UMM...


I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE.
THE LAST TIME I WENT I CAUSED TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR MASTER TASUKE.


IT IS MY HOUSE, AFTER ALL.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE SO TIRING?

BEING AT HOME IS EXHAUSTING.
SATURDAY WAS TOOOO LONG
SIGH... I FINALLY HAVE SOME TIME TO MYSELF.


...I ALMOST MISS HAVING THE HOUSE TO MYSELF.
IT'S LIKE...

YO, TASUKE!
HEY, TAKASHI. HEY, KOICHIROU.
TSUKUBAOKA JR. HIGH
YESTERDAY I SAW THIS SUPER-CUTE GIRL AT THE STORE BY MY HOUSE, AND--
NO WAY! THE LADY AT THE REGISTER WAS WAY HOTTER!
AHHH
IT'S SO REFRESHING TO TALK TO MY FRIENDS.
EVEN IF WE TALK ABOUT NOTHING
FOLLOWING HIM WAS A GOOD IDEA, RUUAN.
ESPECIALLY SINCE SHAORIN CAN'T COME HERE...
IT'S SO NICE GETTING TO TALK TO MY FRIENDS.
IT'S NOTHING!!
YEAH, BUT KOICHIROU'S GOT A THING FOR OLDER WOMEN
THAT MEANS SHAORIN CAN'T INTERFERE HERE!
SCHOOL WILL BE A SPECIAL PLACE JUST FOR MASTER TAA AND ME!

IN THAT CASE...
...I BETTER MAKE MASTER TAA EXTRA HAPPY HERE.
FIRST, I NEED A PLAN THAT'S DETAILED AND PERFECT...
.....
AAAH!
OPERATION: COMPLIMENT MASTER TAA!!

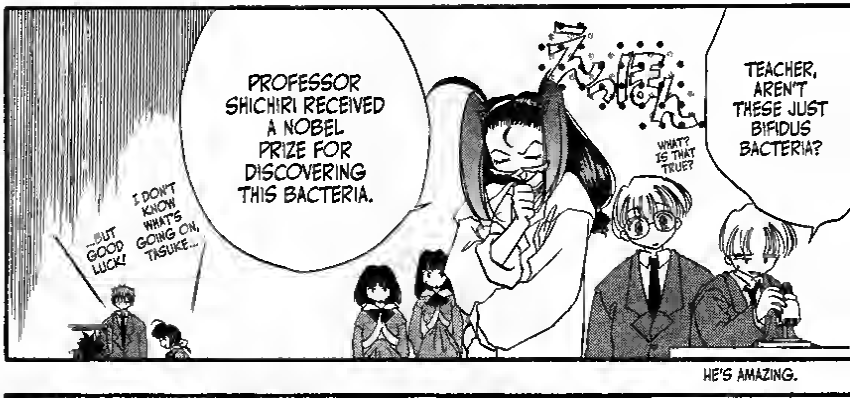
* SHAOA = GOOD MORNING
1ST PERIOD: SOCIAL STUDIES
SHAOA*, EVERYONE!
LET'S BEGIN CLASS! ♡
PE STORAGE SHED
RUL
NO, IT IS NOT OKAY!!
SHE'S HOT. WHO CARES?
OKAY BY ME
YEP.
RUUAN! WHY?!
DID THEY SAY WE WERE GETTING A NEW TEACHER?
WHO'S THAT?

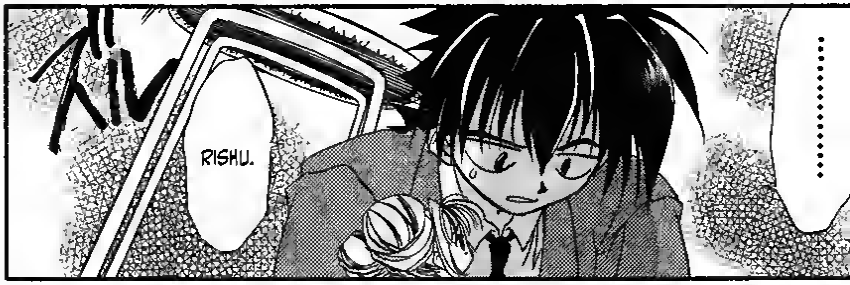
RISHU CAN SEND SHAO TELEPATHIC MESSAGES
M-MISS RUUAN IS...
...AT SCHOOL.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LET'S SEE...
...WILL YOU PLEASE READ THIS?
Y-YES, MA'AM.
OKAY, SHE'S MAKING HIM READ FROM THE BOOK...
...SO MAYBE THIS WILL BE A NORMAL CLASS.
"IN THE YEAR 1590..."
THAT'S A RELIEF, ANYWAY...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!
ホッ
HISTORY

"...TASUKE SHICHIRI, WHO SUCCEEDED IN UNITING THE COUNTRY, THEN..."
"...CROSSED THE SEA AND TOOK CONTROL OF THE CONTINENT OF EURASIA IN AN INSTANT."
"PEOPLE REVERED THE GREAT EMPEROR TASUKE SHICHIRI, AND..."
"...TOLD OF HIS LEGACY IN LEGENDS PASSED DOWN FOR GENERATIONS."
"HE SAID THAT..."
"...IN ANY AGE, HE WOULD ALWAYS BE SUPREME."
ぽか――――ん

BUT I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING...
NEXT, YOU WILL READ "TASUKE SHICHIRI'S FRENCH REVOLUTION."
IS GETTING ME IN TROUBLE THAT MUCH FUN?!
JUST STOP!
SHE OBVIOUSLY KNOWS HIM
EXCUSE ME TEACHER! WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO TASUKE?
...OR EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER!!
BUT I CANNOT GO TO SCHOOL.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? MASTER TASUKE IS IN TROUBLE.
THEY ALREADY KNOW!
OH NO!
SHE BETTER NOT DO THAT AGAIN!
I HOPE SHE COMES AGAIN!!
SHE'S SOOO HOT!
D-DO I KNOW HER? HM ..HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...?
THEY KNOW
HEY, TASUKE!! DO YOU KNOW THAT TEACHER?!
KOI-CHIROU HAS A CRUSH!

2ND PERIOD: SCIENCE
WOW! IT'S AMAZING!
EVERYONE, COME LOOK!
OKAY!
.....
I'LL LOOK! NEAT!!
AND THE NAME OF THESE BACTERIA THAT ARE GOOD FOR YOUR TUMMY IS...?
ささあ
SHICHIRI-TERIA!
ガター
ARE YOU OKAY, TASUKE?
THAT'S WHAT IT'S CALLED. IT'S AN AMAZING BACTERIA DISCOVERED BY THE AMAZING PROFESSOR TASUKE SHICHIRI.


PROFESSOR SHICHIRI RECEIVED A NOBEL PRIZE FOR DISCOVERING THIS BACTERIA.
TEACHER, AREN'T THESE JUST BIFIDUS BACTERIA?
WHAT? IS THAT TRUE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, TASUKE...
...BUT GOOD LUCK!
HE'S AMAZING.


RISHU.
.....

I CAN'T TAKE THIS.
WHY WON'T SHE JUST...

3RD PERIOD: MUSIC
KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY!!
NOW EVERYONE ALL TOGETHER!!
MUSIC ROOM
WHO'S THAT LADYYY? ♪
BEAUUU-TIFUL LADY... ♬
AND WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IS?
UMM... UH...
I-IS...IT... Y-YOU, TEACHER?
UH-UH-UH. ♬
BUT AREN'T YOU SWEET? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MASTER TAA MASTER TAAA!
IT'S MASTER TAA!
I'M KOICHIROU ENDO
...I WOULD BRING!
ANY GIFT YOU WAAANT ...
I WOULD GIVE YOU AAANYTHING!
TRADE PLACES WITH ME!
TASUKE IS SO LUCKY!

YESSS!!
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, TASUKE.
THAT BAGGY OUTFIT IS SO SEXY!
OKAY, EVERYONE, ARE YOU REEEADY?
COME OVER HERE!
NOW, MASTER TAA!
ずるずる
SHE ALWAYS PICKS TASUKE! NO FAIR!
TASUKE, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
4TH PERIOD: P.E.
LET'S SHOW EVERYONE HOW AMAZING YOU ARE ON THE IRON BAR!!
JUST KILL ME NOW.

HUH?
GO WHERE?
GO, MASTER TAA, GO!!
EEK!
AAAAH!!
MAKE IT STOP!!
NOW I REALLY AM GOING TO DIE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIS GRACEFUL SPIN?
WOW... AMAZING!
WAAAAAH!
AH!
NO WAY!
ARMS... FALLING OFF.
CAN'T TAKE... ANYMORE...!!

ARGH!
SHAO-RIN!!
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T COME HERE!!
LOOK, IT'S--!!
I AM SORRY, MASTER TASUKE.
I REALLY TRIED NOT TO COME BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL.
SLED
HOWEVER, YOU MUST NOT DO...
...WHAT MASTER TASUKE DOES NOT DESIRE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE MASTER TASUKE HAPPY.
MISS RUUAN.
HEY! IT'S THAT GIRL WHO FREED THE FROG!!

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME, THEN...
I HAVE NO CHOICE.
I'M JUST DOING MY DUTY AS A KEIKOUNITTEN!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO LECTURE ME!!
FROM THE STARS THAT LIGHT THE HEAVENS, COME FORTH!
HA HAW!
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE MAD, YOU AREN'T INTIMIDATING.

THE GETTEN SPIRIT CALLS FOR YOUR RETURN!
STARS OF KOUCHIN DO NOT WEARY OF MY SUMMONS
YOU WOULD NOT...
WAIT...
RAI RAI...
...HOKUTO SHICHISEI!/*
WHY'D YOU SUMMON THOSE VICIOUS LITTLE IMPS?
"HOSHIGAMI...HOKUTO...SHICHISEI" GODS OF THE CONSTELLATION THE BIG DIPPER THE MOST POWERFUL FIGHTING HOSHIGAMI FROM THE LOWER RIGHT THEY ARE TONROU, KOMON, ROKUSON, MONGOKU, RENCHOU, MUGOKU AND HAGUN
* THE BIG DIPPER

SHE DIDN'T USED TO BE SO DRAMATIC!!
I WILL NOT ALLOW...
...ANYONE TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR MASTER TASUKE! NOT EVEN YOU!!
OH, SO IT'S ALL FOR MASTER TAA, IS IT?
THIS COULD BE BAD. I MUST ANIMATE SOMETHING ENORMOUS TO COMBAT THE HOKUTO SHICHISEI!
SHE'S TRYING TO IMPRESS HIM.
!...!
I KNOW WHAT TO DO!

THAT WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A WILL...
...AWAKEN BY MY POWER.
YOUTENSHIN SHOURAI!!
UGH.
THE SCHOOL'S...
IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!

コオオオオオオ

...MY PEACE AND QUIET.
THAT LITTLE FLYING THING IS AMAZING!
SO MUCH FOR...
WOW! THAT'S AMAZING, TEACHER!

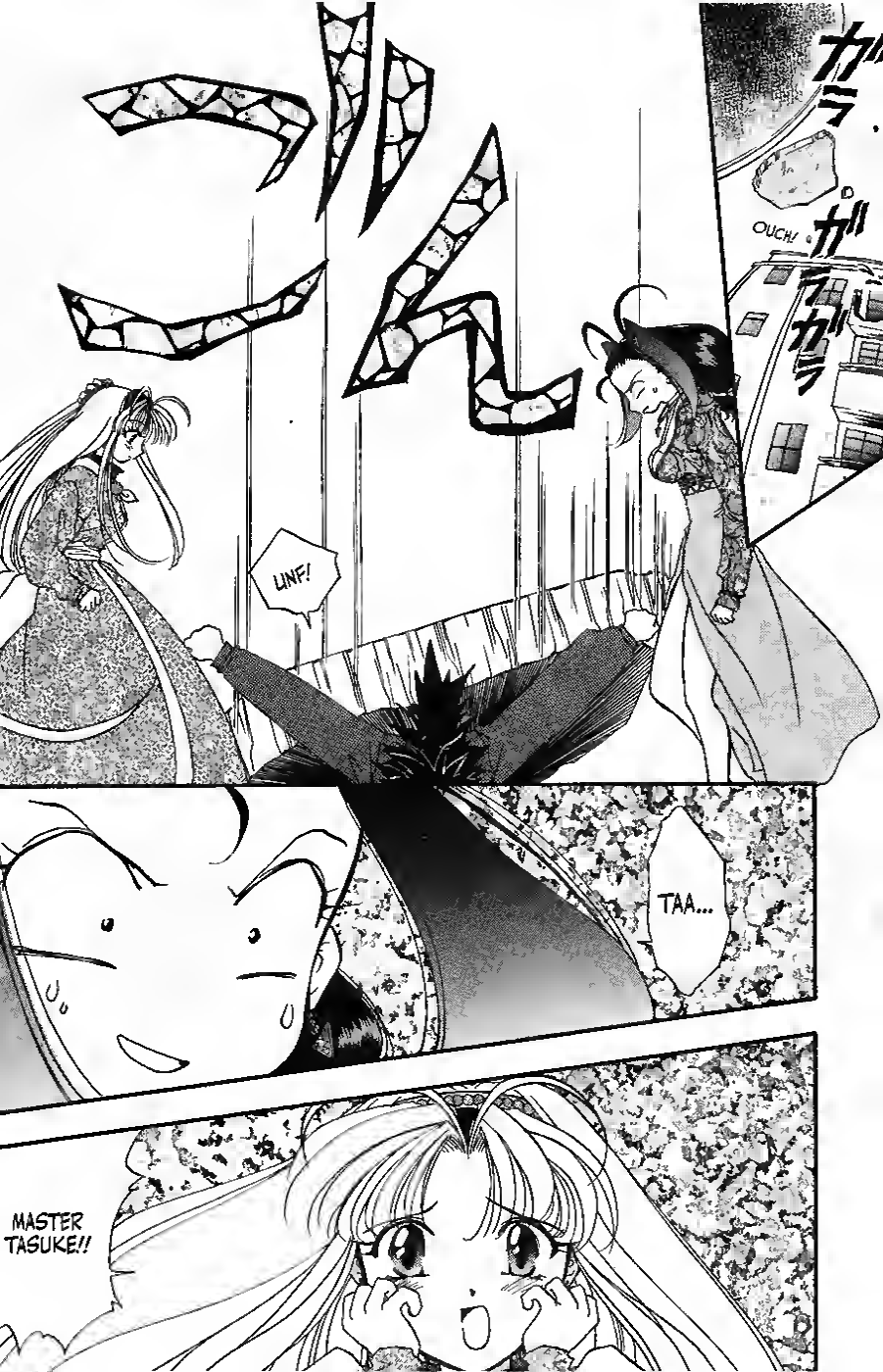
IF YOU DON'T STOP THEM, THEY'LL KEEP AT IT FOREVER.
SHOULDN'T YOU STOP THEM?
NOT THAT IT'S MY BUSINESS

YO, TASUKE!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
...SHO-UKO.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THEY'LL OBEY.
RIGHT?
.....

I WILL PUT A STOP TO THIS.
OKAY!!
YOU GO, BOY!!
MISS RUUAN, PLEASE PROMISE THAT YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN CAUSE TROUBLE FOR MASTER TASUKE!!

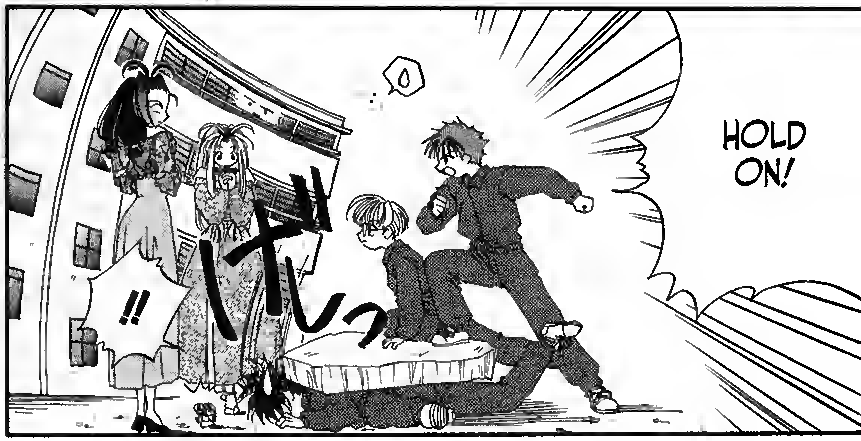
I'LL PROMISE NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE IF YOU CAN PROMISE NOT TO BE A DITZ.
ウオオオオオオオ
STOP IT!!
BOTH OF YOU!!

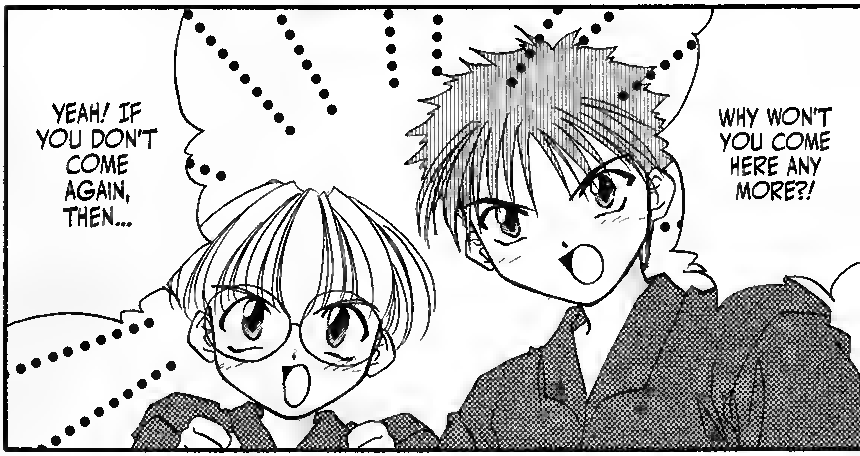

OUCH!
UNF!
TAA...
MASTER TASUKE!!

...JUST GO HOME AND WAIT FOR ME.
I'M BEGGING YOU...
B-BOTH OF YOU...
I'LL BE...
...FINE. REALLY.

.....
MISS RUUAN.
...MASTER TASUKE.
.....
HMM...
IF THAT'S WHAT MASTER TAA WISHES, THEN I MUST OBEY.
I UNDER STAND. I WON'T COME HERE AGAIN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO CAUSE MASTER TAA TROUBLE YOU KNOW.

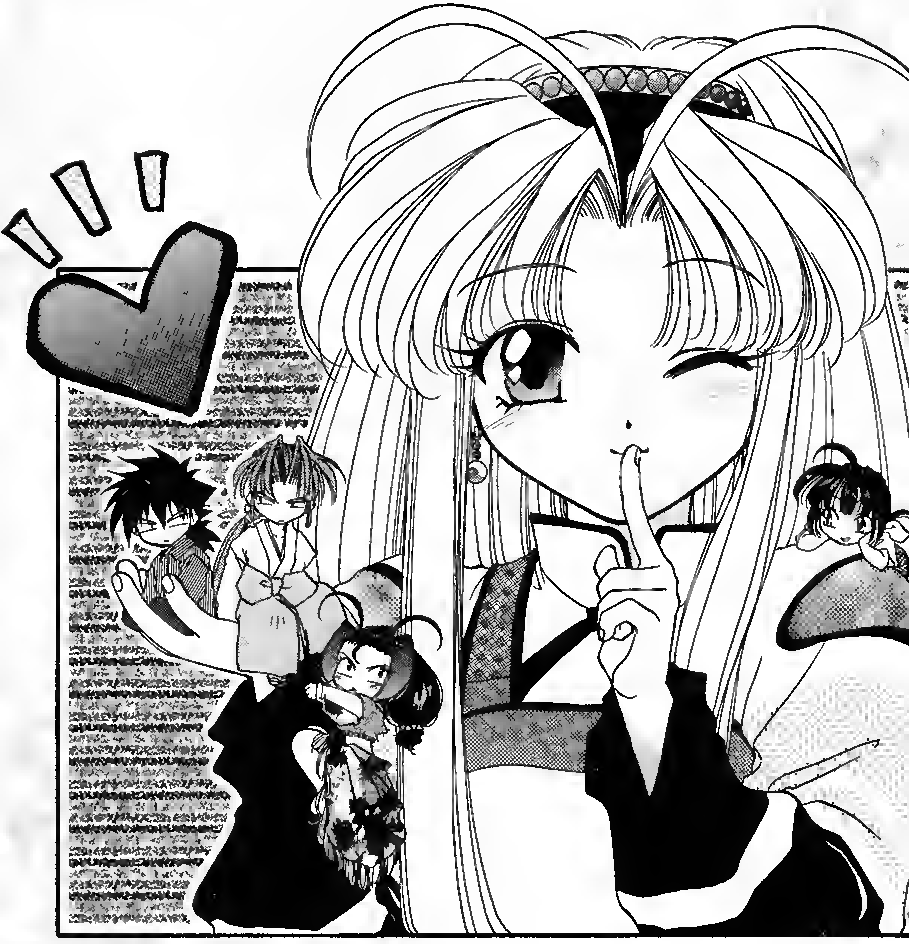
RUUAN.

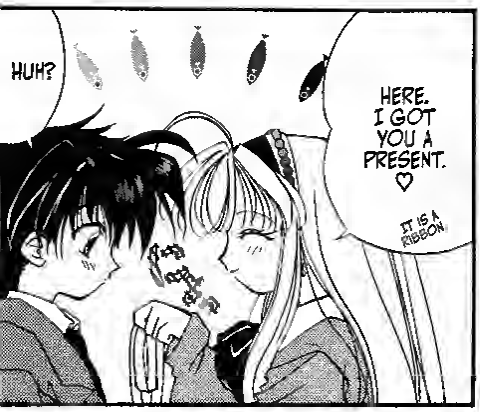

HOLD ON!
!!
バシっ


YEAH! IF YOU DON'T COME AGAIN, THEN...
WHY WON'T YOU COME HERE ANY MORE?!

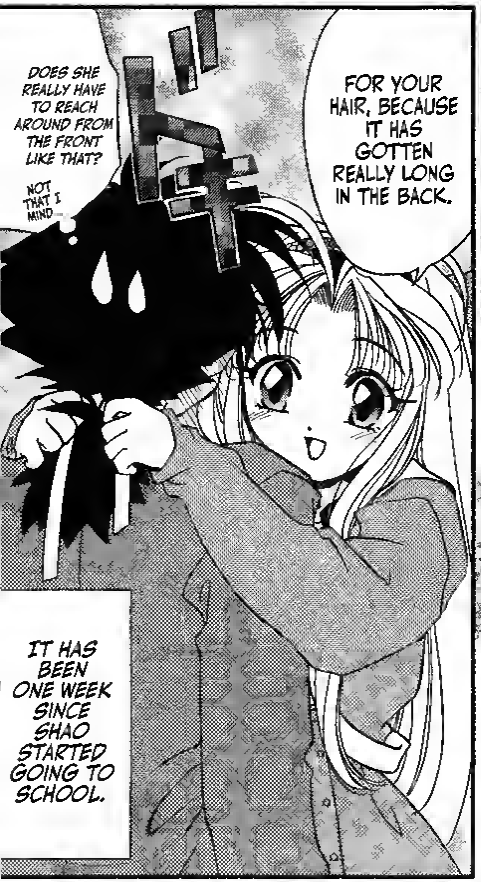
...WE'LL PICK ON TASUKE!
YEAH! WE'LL MAKE SURE HE'S MISERABLE EVERY DAY HE COMES TO SCHOOL!
WHAAAT ?!
COME ON, GUYS!
WELL, NOW MASTER TAA'S HAPPINESS DEPENDS ON ME COMING WITH HIM!
HOORAY!
NICE TO MEET YOU ALL!
THEN I MUST COME AS WELL.
ガーん
PEACE AND QUIET.
TWO WORDS I WILL NEVER KNOW.
FAREWELL PEACE, FAREWELL QUIET.

CHAPTER 9
IZUMI AND RUUAN TEAM UP! (PART ONE)



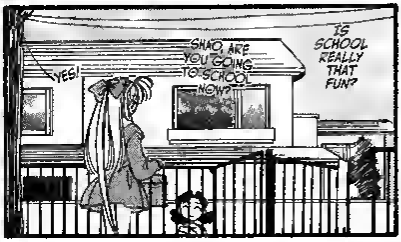

HUH?
HERE. I GOT YOU A PRESENT. ♡
IT IS A RIBBON

MASTER TASUKE! MASTER TASUKE!

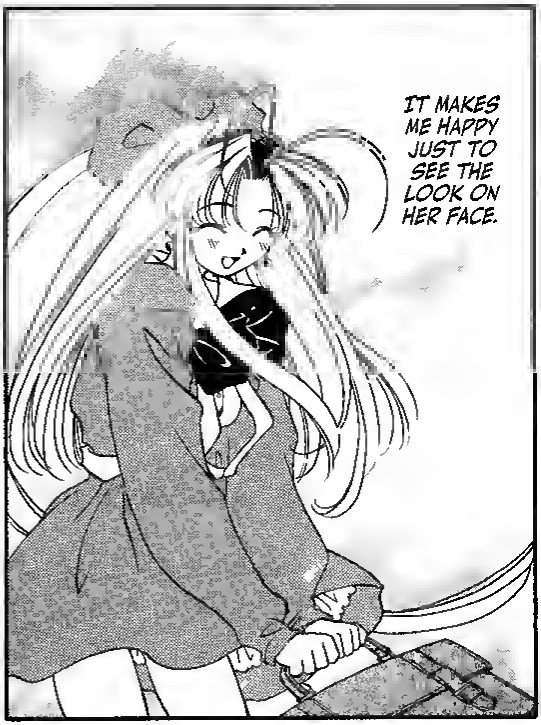

DOES SHE REALLY HAVE TO REACH AROUND FROM THE FRONT LIKE THAT?
NOT THAT I MIND...
FOR YOUR HAIR, BECAUSE IT HAS GOTTEN REALLY LONG IN THE BACK.
IT HAS BEEN ONE WEEK SINCE SHAO STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL.

SHE SEEMS TO LIKE GOING TO SCHOOL

SO FAR NOTHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED, AND...
...MY DAYS HAVE BEEN MOSTLY STRESS FREE.
HURRY, MASTER TASUKE! WE MIGHT BE LATE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY WE'RE FINE


IS SCHOOL REALLY THAT FUN?
SHAO, ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL NOW?
YES!

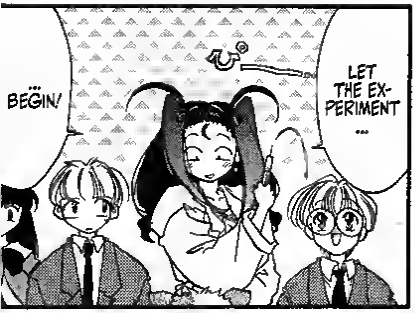
BUT... IT FEELS LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING.

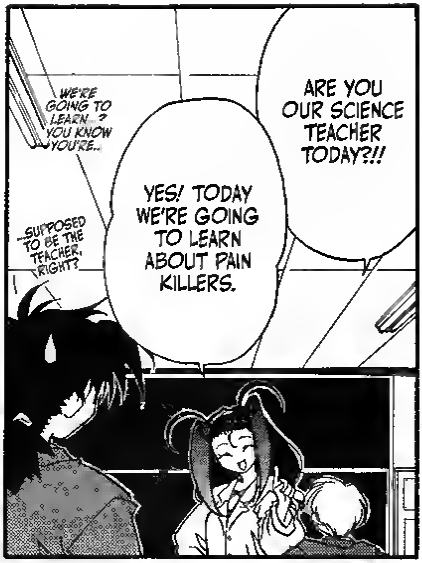

IT MAKES ME HAPPY JUST TO SEE THE LOOK ON HER FACE.

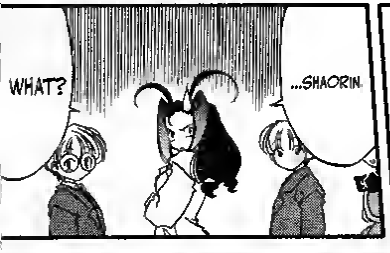
HEY, WAIT FOR ME!

WHY DO YOU GUYS...
...ALWAYS GO OFF AND LEAVE ME LIKE I DON'T EVEN MATTER?
MISS RUUAN.
I KNEW I FORGOT SOMETHING.
BUT MISS RUUAN, JUST THIS MORNING...
MISS RUUAN, IT IS TIME TO GET UP.
NO. RUUAN IS TAKING THE DAY OFF.
IT'S TOO HARD TO WAKE UP.
THAT IS WHAT YOU TOLD US.
WHAT AN OUTFIT...
WHAT? WHO SAID THAT?
YOU DID, MISS RUUAN.
BUT IT STILL FEELS LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING.
HMM
SO THAT'S IT.

キーン コーン
ヤー
ガヤ ガヤ
すすす…
I GET THE PERIOD OFF, SO I DON'T MIND.
I STILL GET PAID.
WHAT A MESS. SHE'S SO FICKLE SHE CAN'T DECIDE WHICH CLASS SHE WANTS TO TEACH.
DID MISS RUUAN TAKE OVER YOUR CLASS?
SHAOA, EVERYONE! ♡
SHE'S STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL, EH?
I WAS WONDERING WHY SHAO HADN'T BEEN HOME LATELY.
I DID NOT SAY THAT!
WHY ARE THE HAIRS ON MY NECK STANDING UP?


BEGIN!
LET THE EXPERIMENT ...


ARE YOU OUR SCIENCE TEACHER TODAY?!!
WE'RE GOING TO LEARN...? YOU KNOW YOU'RE...
SUPPOSED TO BE THE TEACHER, RIGHT?
YES! TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LEARN ABOUT PAIN KILLERS.


WHAT?
...SHAORIN.

BECAUSE ...
...I FEEL BAD FOR MR. HAMSTER.
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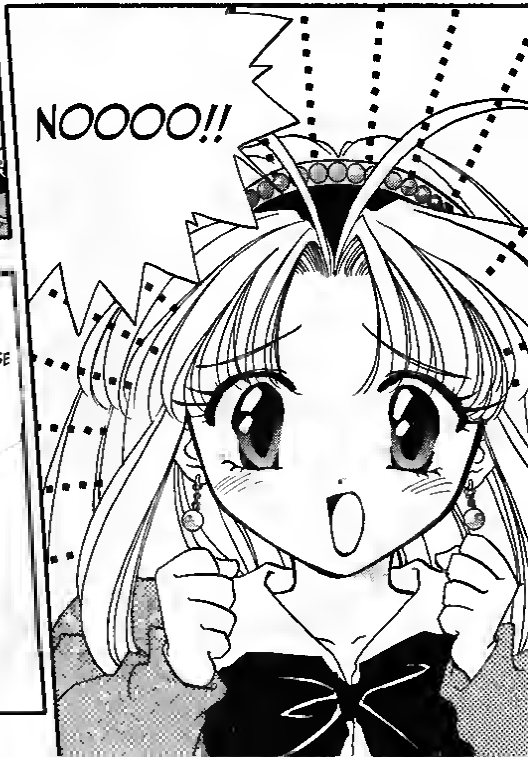

NOOOO!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHOSE SIDE"?
WH-WH-WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?
NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN, RUAN.
WE'RE JUST PUTTING HIM TO SLEEP FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
HE'S NOT GOING TO DIE OR ANYTHING.
FEEL BAD?
WHA?!!
YEAH, I DON'T WANT TO STAB A CUTE LITTLE HAMSTER.
I AGREE WITH SHAO!
SHAO, OF COURSE. MUST YOU ASK?
DING-DONG
YAY! IT'S LUNCHTIME!
I COULD FORGIVE ANYONE BUT HER!!
HAVING MASTER TAA ISN'T ENOUGH, SHE HAS TO WIN OVER THE OTHER STUDENTS TOO?

WHA--?
HEEEEY, MASTER TAA.
DO YOU WANT TO GO GET LUNCH FROM THE SCHOOL STORE?
WHAT IS THAT?!
THE LUNCH SHAO MADE ME.
CAN'T YOU TELL?
I MADE ONE FOR YOU TOO, MISS RUUAN.
MISCHIEVOUS SHAO
SHAORIN, YOU MAKE ME SO ANGRY!! NO MATTER WHAT I DO, YOU GET IN THE WAY!
IT LOOKS LIKE A DOG

HEY TASUKE, LET'S GO TO THE SCHOOL STORE.
WHY?
I BROUGHT A LUNCH.
I HEARD THERE'S A NEW GIRL WORKING.
LET'S GO SEE
I DON'T WANT TO.
カラーン
WHY NOT? WHAT IF SHE'S REALLY CUTE?
ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS GIRLS!
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO!!
するする
MASTER TASUKE
HE TOUCHED MY HAND!
WELL, HE PATTED MY HEAD!
ワイワイ
WHAAAT? IT'S A GUY!
SO THAT'S WHAT I FORGOT. I KNEW IT WAS SOMETHING.
WH-WHAT?

LOOK, KOICHIROU, THEY'RE GIVING THINGS AWAY FOR FREE!!
そそっ
I DIDN'T THINK THERE'D BE SO MANY...
YAY! CAN I HAVE ONE TOO?!
ME TOO!
IZUMO MIYAUCHI!!
わい
わい
YOU'RE SO CUTE, THIS ONE'S ON THE HOUSE!
わい
YAY! LUCKY! ♡
TASUKE, HEY.
NO DUDES SERVED HERE SCAT
しっ
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.
THE SAME SPLIT PERSONALITY.
WOULD YOU EXPECT ANY LESS?
I'M JUST GOING TO GO BACK TO CLASS.
HE MUST HAVE COME HERE BECAUSE OF SHO.

ガラ
SHA--
OH, MR. IZUMO, YOU ARE WORKING AT THE SCHOOL STORE?
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM SHAO.
IZUMO MIYAUCHI
HE'S SO FREAKIN' FAST!!
ARRGGHH, WHEN DID YOU...?!!
YES, I JUST STARTED.
AND TO CELEBRATE THE LUCKY COINCIDENCE THAT WE WILL GET TO SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY...
...I BROUGHT YOU A SPECIAL TREAT. IT'S A MISS-SHAORIN-WOULD-DEFINITELY-LIKE-A-SHRIMP-AND-CHILI SANDWICH.
.....
WOW! MR. IZUMO, YOU MADE THIS?!
AH-HA...

I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS. ♡
WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA!
WELL, LA-DA-DA
IT IS DELICIOUS! ♡
I CAN USE HIM TO HELP ME TAKE CARE OF THAT IRRITATING SHAORIN.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHOA!!
WHO ARE YOU?!
...DISAPPEARED
OH DEAR! MR. IZUMO...
I THINK YOU AND I WILL MAKE GREAT FRIENDS, DON'T YA?
NO... NOT AT ALL.
I LIKE YOUNGER WOMEN
NOTE: ACTUALLY, SHAO HAS LIVED HUNDREDS OF TIMES LONGER THAN IZUMO.

I SEE.
.....
WH-WHAT?
WE WILL GET ALONG SPLENDIDLY !!
IT DOES APPEAR THAT...
..YOU AND I WILL GET ALONG QUITE WELL.
HEH.
HEH HEH.
HEH.
OH, THERE HE IS.
HEH HEH...
HEH.

...HEH.
I... I GOT A BAD FEELING...
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!..
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...
WHAT'S WITH THOSE TWO?
HE STOOD UP SO SUDDENLY.
OOH...
MISS SHAORIN!!
OH?
I FEEL FAINT.
...AHH.

OH, MISS SHAORIN, PLEASE LET ME LEAN ON YOU.
ほあ
ほあ
OF... COURSE.
HE'S SHAMELESS.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. IZUMO?
DO YOU NEED TO GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE?
Y-YES... PLEASE.
MR. IZUMO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DO YOU FEEL BAD?
SHAO IS SUCH A NICE PERSON.
EVEN IF SHE IS CLUELESS.
WELL DONE.
THANK YOU.

?!
SHAO...
THE NURSE CAN TAKE CARE OF IT.
LIGH. N-NO, I CAN'T LEAVE THEM ALONE!
GOOD WORK, LADY.
DOES IT HURT VERY MUCH?
NOW, MASTER TAA.
LET'S FORGET ABOUT THOSE TWO.

EVEN IF YOU TRY TO TRAP ME AND TACKLE ME EVERYDAY...
...I WILL ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO GET OUT OF IT!
SHE TACKLES YOU EVERY DAY?
LUCKY!
WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING NICE WITH ME INSTEAD?!
WHAT...?
I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS FROM MY MASTER TAA. ♡
HOW SPORTING.
TASUKE, YOU'VE CHANGED, HAVEN'T YOU?
DUMMY, HUH?
THAT SYRINGE DOES YOU NO GOOD IF YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!
DUMMY!
JUST TRY IT!
すー
...SO NAÏVE.
THE TRANQUILIZER FROM EARLIER!
BUT, YOU ARE STILL...

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
I HAVE TO GO AFTER SHAO AND IZUMO.
HUMPH
THAT'S WHY...
...I CALLED YOU SO NAÏVE.
AH...
WHOA! DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
...IS FOLLOWING HIM.
TH THE SYRINGE...
KISS!
UNG...

RUUAN... YOU...
...COW...ARD.
RU...!
I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE!!
PRETTY EFFECTIVE...
T-TASUKE...?
.....
SHAO...
"FOR YOUR HAIR, BECAUSE IT HAS GOTTEN REALLY LONG IN THE BACK."
.....
HUH?..WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

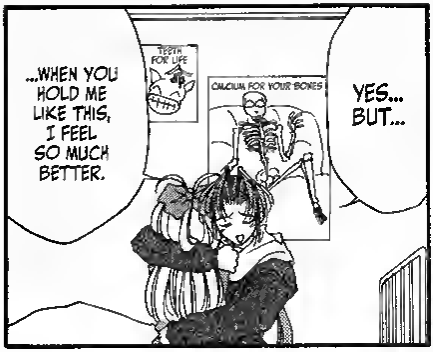
SHAO!!
HEE HEE.
NOW I'VE FINALLY GOT YOU ALL TO MYSELF. ♡
.....
EXCUSE ME?
SHAO, I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU!!
OH JUST IGNORE HER ALREADY.
ガ
し

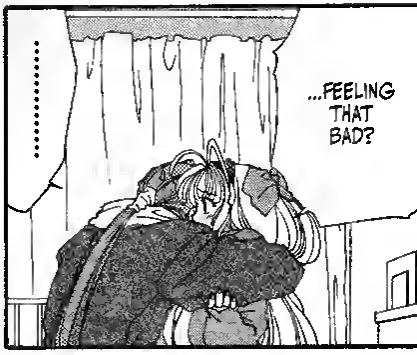
AAAAARGH!!
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE.
TEE HEE. I GAVE THE DOOR LIFE.
RUUAN, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!!
YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO MAKE ME MAD!!

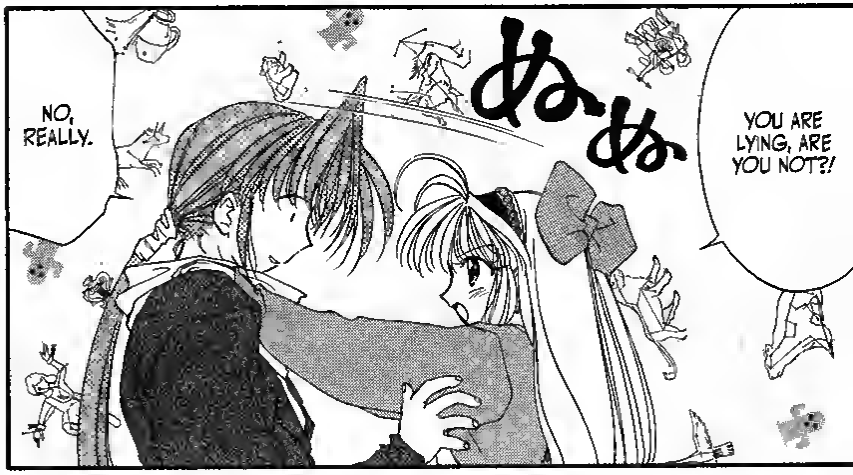
MASTER TAA, YOU'RE WONDERFUL....
...EVEN WHEN YOU GET MAD ♡
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID.
RUUAN WILL BE GENTLE.
GENTLE WITH WHAT?!
IT'S A MATTER OF COURSE, ISN'T IT?
MASTER TAA, YOU REALLY ARE SO NAIVE!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I WONDER WHAT SHAORIN AND IZUMO ARE UP TO.
WE COULD TAKE A LITTLE PEEK.
MAYBE HE'S ALREADY MADE HER HAPPY? ♡
WHAT?
WELL. ♡
TH-THE NURSE'S OFFICE!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. IZUMO?
...YES.
...NO.
WELL, KIND OF...

WH-WH-WH-WHAT?!!
WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?!
HE MADE A MOVE ON HER?!
WHA--?
OH DEAR. ♡
HOW DOES THIS DEVICE WORK? WHY'D THEY DISAPPEAR?!
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE I TURNED IT OFF ON PURPOSE?
RUIJAN IS A MEANIE ♡
MR. IZUMO...
...ARE YOU...


...WHEN YOU HOLD ME LIKE THIS, I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER.
TEETH FOR LIFE
CALCIUM FOR YOUR BONES
YES... BUT...


.....
...FEELING THAT BAD?


NO, REALLY.
ぬぬ
YOU ARE LYING, ARE YOU NOT?!

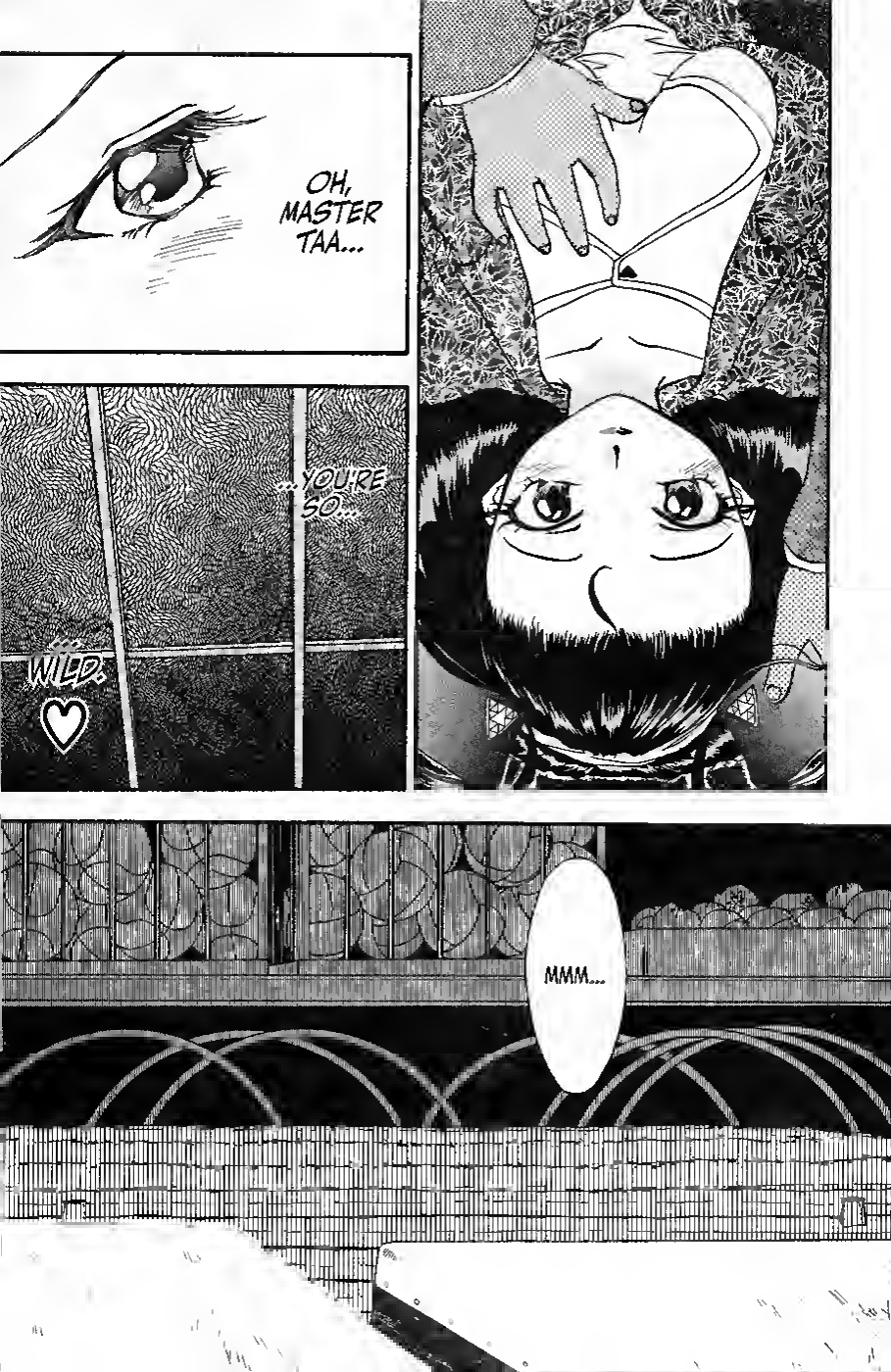
ぼふっ
.....

IF YOU ARE FEELING FAINT, THEN SLEEP IS THE BEST THING FOR YOU!
SIGH...

YOU MUST BE LYING.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE THAT SITTING UP MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.
せかせかせかせか
NO ..UMM..

.....
...IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU-KNOW-WHAT HAPPENS.
IF HE'S ALREADY PUTTING THE MOVES ON HER...
HE'LL DRAG HER INTO BED AND...
EEK!
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN...
OOH, HOW DARE THAT SLEAZE BALL?!
ARGH! I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT COMES NEXT!
WHO IS HE TALKING TO?

?
WHAT'S WRONG DARLING?
WHY'D YOU JUMP UP?
RUUAN.
YES?
OOH MASTER TAA?


OH, MASTER TAA...
...YOU'RE SO....
WILD.
MMM....

IT'S JUST THAT...
I WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING PRIVATELY.
THAT'S WHY I PRETENDED TO BE SICK.
すくっ
YES?
I'M SORRY. THE TRUTH IS...
MISS SHAO-FIN..
...I DON'T FEEL BAD AT ALL.
にぱ
WHAT IF WHAT I SAW WASN'T REAL?
ぐわし
HAH. THAT WORKED.

PLEASE BE ALL RIGHT
SHAO...
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE SOME-HOW.
I WILL...
...RESCUE YOU!!

CHAPTER 10
IZUMO AND RUUAN TEAM UP! (PART TWO)

.....
OOH, REALLY. ♡
MASTER TAA, YOU DEVIL....
WELL, I DID TRANQUILIZE HER
HOW CAN SHE SLEEP SO PEACEFULLY, TRAPPED IN THIS SHED?
I HAVE TO SAVE SHAO FROM IZUMO.
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE.
HOLD ON, SHAO.
I'M ON MY WAY!!

MISS SHAORIN.
NURSE'S OFFICE
TO BE HONEST ...
...FROM THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU AT THE PET STORE...
YES?
I...
YOU...
ぎゅ
YES?
?

THERE'S NO WAY I'D FIT THROUGH THAT WINDOW.
BUT HOW AM I GOING TO ESCAPE?
...HMM.
IF THIS GUY WOULD JUST OPEN UP...
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!!!
OH, BUT WAIT.
RUUAN WOULDN'T WANT IT TO HURT ME OR ANYTHING...
MAYBE HE HAS TO OBEY ME ALSO.
OKAY! OPEN UP, YOU BIG OLD DOOR BUDDIE...

...OW.
LET GO OF ME!!
OUCH! STOP IT, STUPID!
NOOO...MASTER TAA, YOU...
MMM, MASTER TAA, OOOH! ♡
...RUU-AANNN!

OH, WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING IN HERE?
DRAT.
OH.
OOOPS, I FORGOT SOMETHING.
E OFFICE
NO FEVER. YOU'LL PROBABLY FEEL BETTER IF YOU TAKE A NAP.
LET'S SEE IF YOU HAVE A FEVER.
NO, MISS SHAORIN... I'M NOT REALLY...
I JUST TOLD YOU I WAS LYING
NURSE! MR. IZUMO IS NOT FEELING WELL!!
HMM.
DARN HER MEDDLING!!
YES
HURRY BACK TO CLASS.
LIK-OH.
WHY DON'T YOU GO ON BACK TO YOUR ROOM? CLASSES HAVE ALREADY STARTED.
HE'LL BE FINE HERE

OH.
MISS SHAORIN.
I AM SORRY, MR. IZUMO. I NEED TO GO.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, PLEASE TELL THIS LITTLE ONE, ALL RIGHT?
I WILL COME RIGHT AWAY
ぽん
YES?
CREAK
伝

MR. IZUMO?
.....
...MISS SHAORIN
NNNG! YOU CAN'T!
TASUKE!

...SIGH.
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, HE WON'T OPEN.
I HAVE TO HURRY OR ELSE SHAO...
UH...
HAS SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO SHAO?!
RISHU!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
NOT THAT AGAIN.

OKAY, SO...
...IZUMO DRAGGED SHAO INTO THE BED, AND...
こしゃこしゃ
...SHAO RESISTED, BUT HE HELD HER DOWN, AND...
わぁぁぁ
...HE P-PUT HIS HANDS ON HER CLOTHES, AND...?!
THAT CREEP!
IZUMO MIYAUCHI!!
HEY, HE DIDN'T GO THAT FAR...
I HAVE TO HURRY!

...MR. IZUMO.
MISS SHAORIN.
I-I'M 20, WHY?
HUH?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
B-BUT THAT'S
YOU HAD BETTER STOP OR I WILL SUMMON THE HOSHIGAMI!
I WILL HAVE THEM HOLD YOU DOWN!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING VIOLENT AND THROWING TANTRUMS IF YOU ARE AN ADULT?!
WHY DO YOU LIE ABOUT FEELING SICK?
UH, UMM...
SO YOU ARE ALREADY AN ADULT!
OH MY GOODNESS
IT'S BECAUSE I'M AN ADULT THAT...

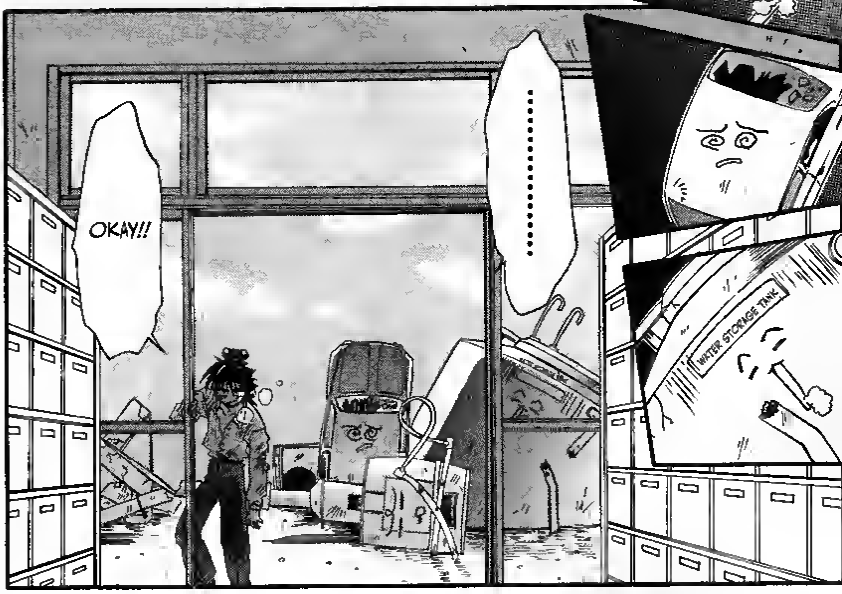
TAKE THAT!
OKAY, DOOR, ARE YOU READY?!
THIS SHOULD SHUT YOUR TRAP!
AND THIS, AND THIS!

ターン
I'LL BE THERE SOON!
HOLD ON, SHAO.

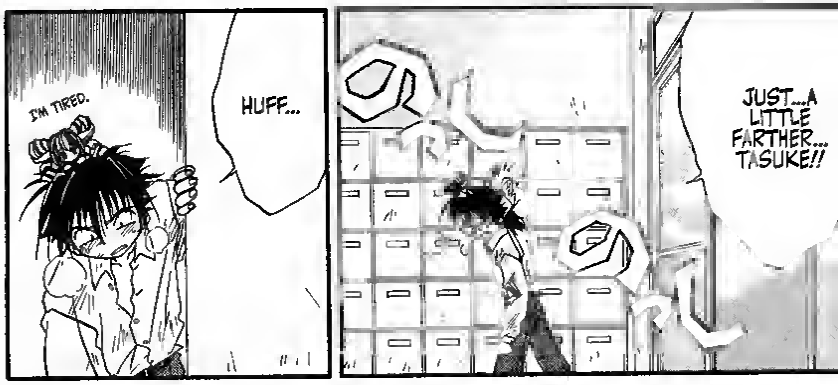
HUH.
WELL DONE.
NICE TRY, ANYWAY.
BUT I WON'T LET YOU RUN TO SHAORIN!
?!
YOUTEN-SHIN SHOURAI!!

まてコラ
STOP RIGHT THERE
WHA--?!
NOW IT'S THE GOAL POST!!
RUUAN, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING!
WHOA!
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE, MASTER TAA!
HAAAAA...

ナイスキーパー!
GOOD GOAL POST! ♡
NICE WORK!
ARGH! YOU USELESS--!!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR NAME CALLING!
すかい
EH...?
GET PAN! GET PAN!


OKAY!!
.....
WATER STORAGE TANK

...TO...TO MAKE IT TO...THE ENTRANCE.
I...I... I MANAGED...


I'M TIRED.
HUFF...
JUST...A LITTLE FARTHER... TASUKE!!

THE NURSE'S OFFICE IS JUST AROUND THIS CORNER, RIGHT?
HUH?
WHAT...?
...MOVING?!
THE HALLWAY IS...
TH--
DANG IT!!
SHE JUST WON'T QUIT!!

I'M GOING TO DIE!
30 MPH
SOMEONE MAKE IT STOP!
AAAAAAAAAH!
HEE HEE. ♡
I CAN'T RUN ANY-MORE.
IT'S NO USE!
FLUTTER
SHAO!
FLUTTER
WHA--?!
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME!
WAIT, RIBBON! STOP!!

PHEW, SAFE...
UNNNNH!
UNNNNGH, URGH!
...UH.
OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE.

...I CAN'T STOP NOW!
I'VE GOTTEN THIS CLOSE...
WHOA!!

OOF...
HEY, MASTER TAA, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP ON SHAORIN?
LET THAT BOY HAVE HER.
.....
MASTER TAAAA...
...I CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY.

YOU JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND...
...RUUAN.
.....
I...
...JUST SO THAT SHE CAN PROTECT ME.
...DON'T WANT TO SAVE SHAO...

THEN...
...WHY?
WHY DO YOU NEED SHAORIN...
...IF IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU WANT HER POWERS AS A SHUGOGETTEN TO PROTECT YOU?
I DON'T GET IT!
WE ONLY EXIST TO PROTECT OUR MASTERS AND MAKE THEM HAPPY.

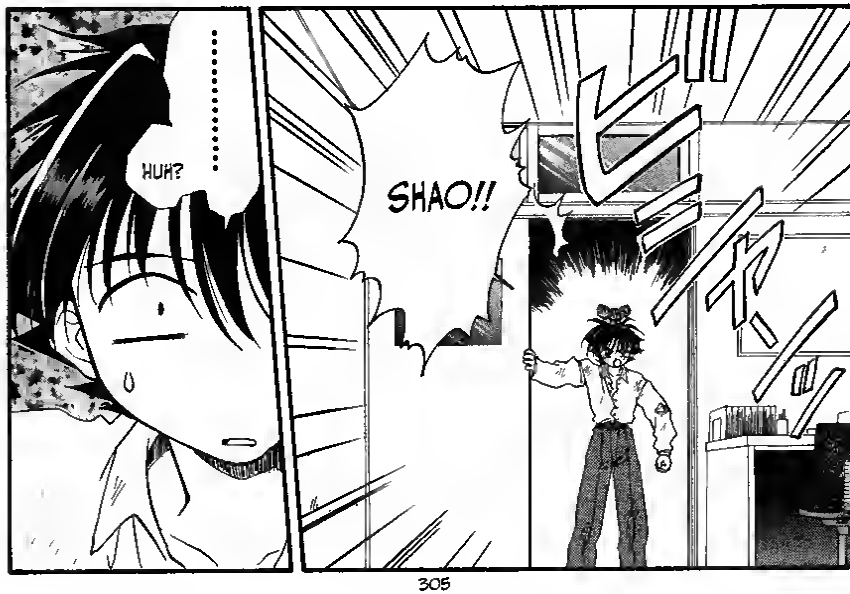
WHY IN THE WORLD...
...DO YOU WANT TO SAVE SHAORIN?
EVEN IF SHE WERE GONE...
...YOU'D STILL HAVE ME.
?
I WON'T LET YOU SUFFER FROM MISFORTUNE OR UNHAPPINESS.

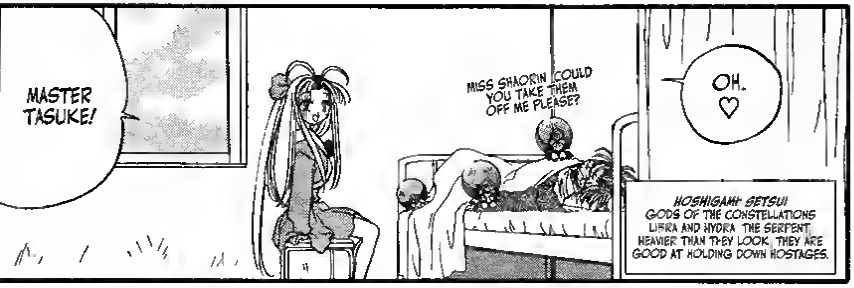
SHAO...
...GAVE ME THIS RIBBON.
IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY RIBBON, BUT...
...IT MADE ME HAPPIER...
...THAN IF SHE'D CALLED OUT A HOSHIGAMI OR SOMETHING.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY, BUT...
...IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE ...
... SHE DIDN'T DO IT AS A SHUGO-GETTEN.
THIS RIBBON ...
...WAS A GIFT JUST FROM SHAO.
THAT IS WHY I WON'T...
...LET ANYONE ELSE HAVE HER.

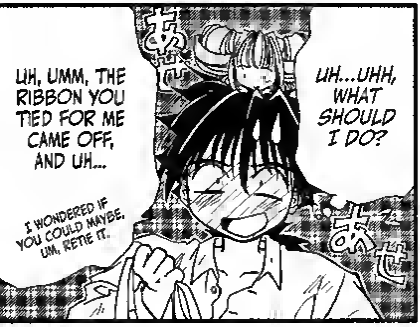
HUMPH.
TEE HEE HEE HEE...
?
YOU'RE STRANGE!

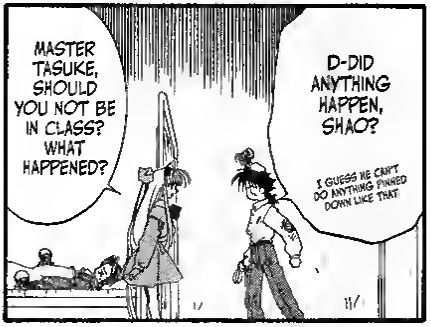
ガラ
HMM?
ガラ
SO THERE REALLY ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
GO, THEN.
GO ON, I WON'T STOP YOU THIS TIME.
.....
...RUUAN.

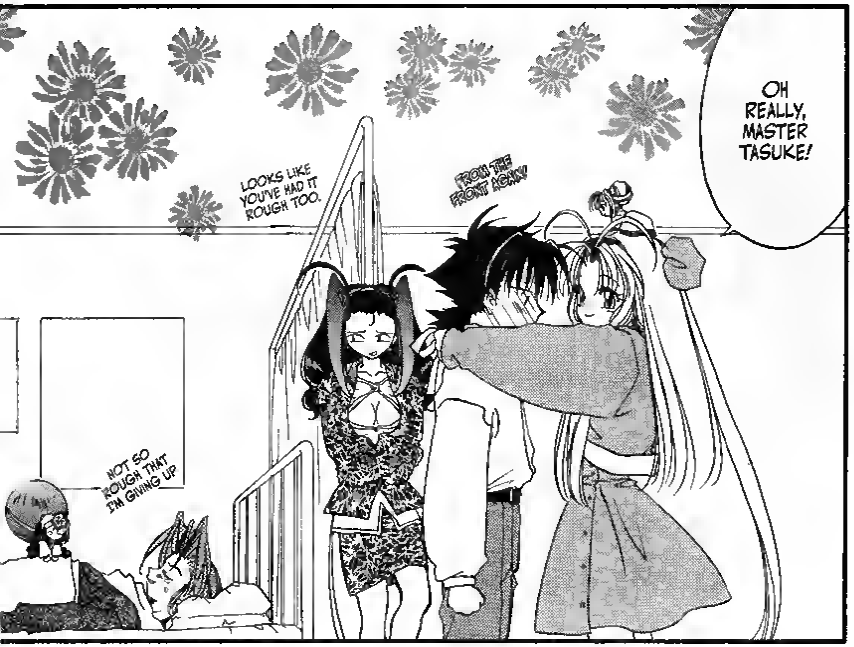
HUM?..
I LIKE YOU MORE AND MORE, MY LORD AND MASTER.
SOMEDAY, I WILL MAKE YOU MINE.
THANK YOU, RUUAN!!

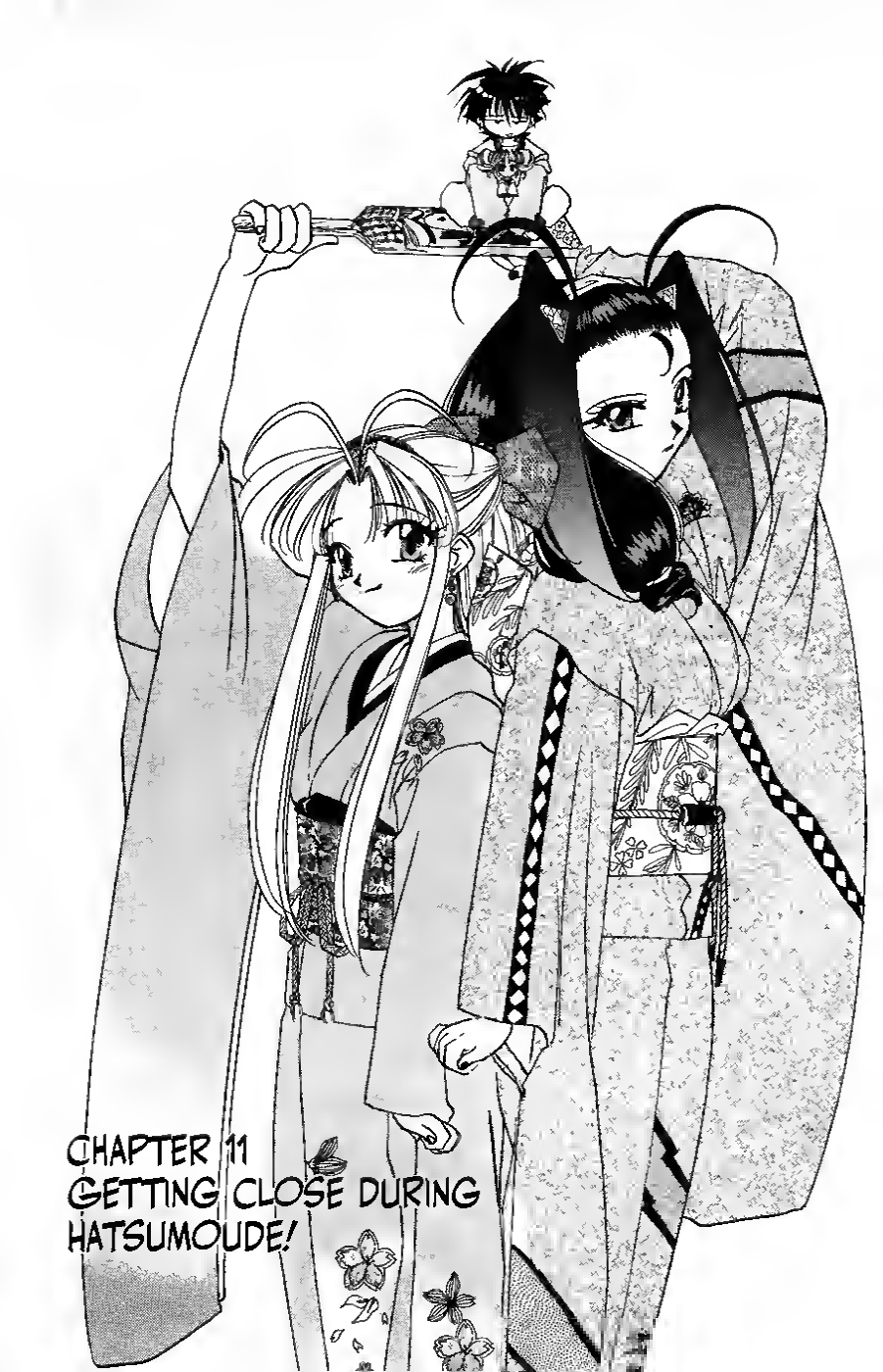

HUH?
SHAO!!
ビキッ


MASTER TASUKE!
MISS SHAORIN, COULD YOU TAKE THEM OFF ME PLEASE?
OH. ♡
HOSHIGAMI SETSUI
GODS OF THE CONSTELLATIONS LIBRA AND HYDRA. THE SERPENT HEAVIER THAN THEY LOOK. THEY ARE GOOD AT HOLDING DOWN HOSTAGES.

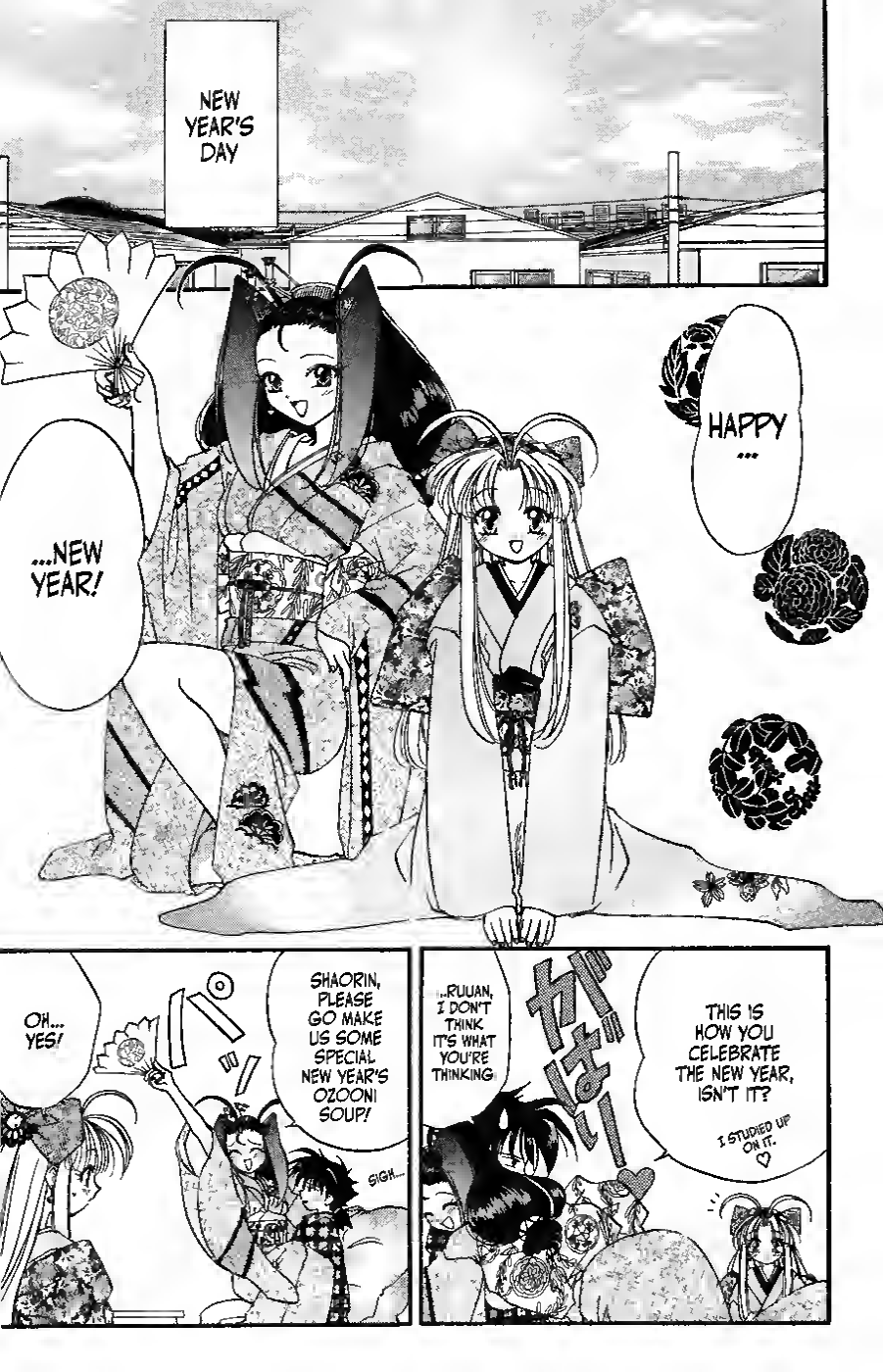

UH, UMM, THE RIBBON YOU TIED FOR ME CAME OFF, AND UH...
I WONDERED IF YOU COULD MAYBE, UM, RETIE IT.
UH...UHH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?


MASTER TASUKE, SHOULD YOU NOT BE IN CLASS? WHAT HAPPENED?
D-DID ANYTHING HAPPEN, SHAO?
I GUESS HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING PINNED DOWN LIKE THAT

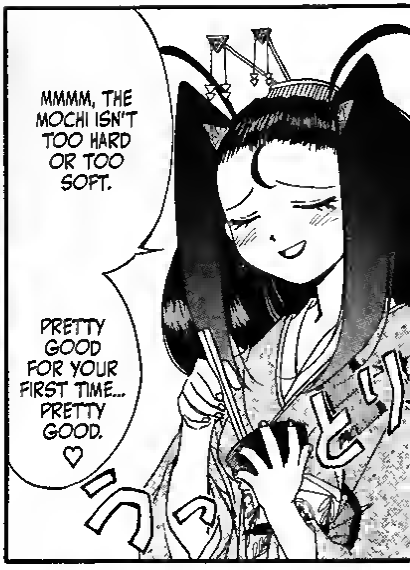

OH REALLY, MASTER TASUKE!
FROM THE FRONT AGAIN?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE HAD IT ROUGH TOO.
NOT SO ROUGH THAT I'M GIVING UP

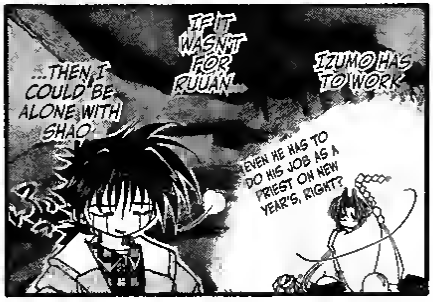


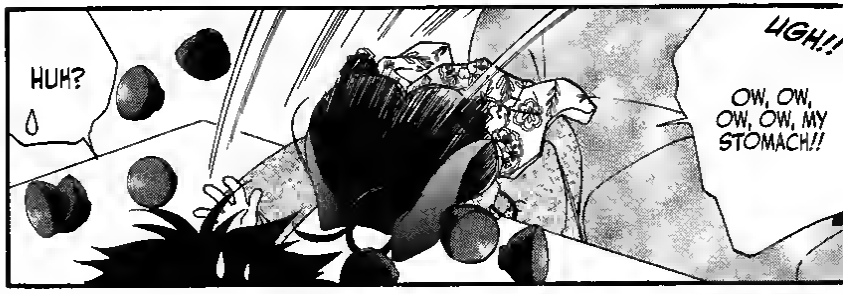
CHAPTER 11
GETTING CLOSE DURING HATSUMOUDE!


NEW YEAR'S DAY
HAPPY ...
...NEW YEAR!
SHAORIN, PLEASE GO MAKE US SOME SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S OZOONI SOUP!
OH... YES!
SIGH...
...RUUAN, I DON'T THINK IT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
THIS IS HOW YOU CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR, ISN'T IT?
I STUDIED UP ON IT. ♡

RUUAN, NEW YEAR'S ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE FOOD.
WE HAVE TO GO VISIT THE TEMPLE HATSUMOUDE.


MMMM, THE MOCHI ISN'T TOO HARD OR TOO SOFT.
PRETTY GOOD FOR YOUR FIRST TIME... PRETTY GOOD. ♡


IF IT WASN'T FOR RUUAN...
IZUMO HAS TO WORK
...THEN I COULD BE ALONE WITH SHAO.
EVEN HE HAS TO DO HIS JOB AS A PRIEST ON NEW YEAR'S, RIGHT?


HUH?
UGH!!
OW, OW, OW, OW, MY STOMACH!!

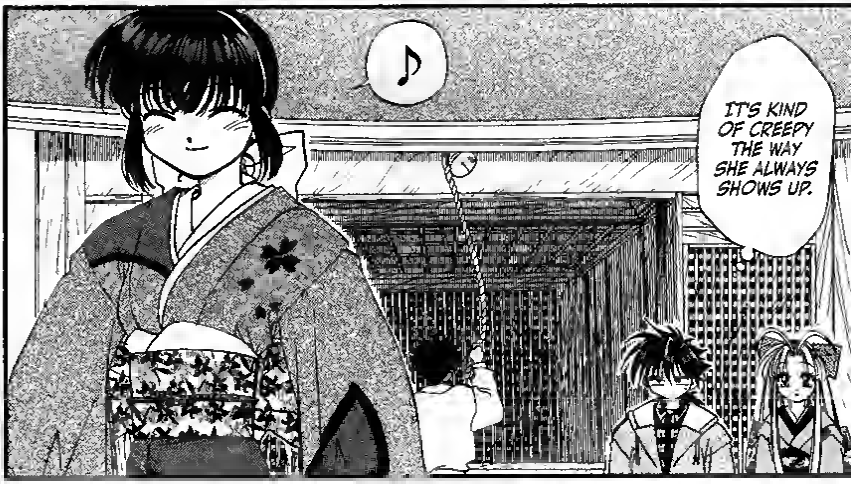
NO WONDER. YOU ATE ENOUGH TO FEED AN ARMY.
IT HURTS SO BAD!!
どびゃーん
BATHROOM!

OH DEAR! I WILL GET YOU SOME MEDICINE!
MY STOMACH HUUUUURTS.
OW, OW, OW, OW, OW, OW

SIGH...
THAT'S IT FOR ME.
BUT WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT ALL BY YOURSELF?
I HATE TO ASK, TO BE POLITE
THAT'S LUCKY. ♡
HATSUMOUDE WITH SHAO! JUST THE TWO OF US!!
!!
YOU TWO CAN GO TO HATSUMOUDE OR WHATEVER WITHOUT ME.
感動
OOOH, MASTER TAA, YOU'RE SO CONSI-DERATE.
PLEASE BRING ME BACK SOME CANDY APPLES, COTTON CANDY, YAKITORI AND TAKOYAKI.
YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT FOOD?
I'LL EAT THEM WHEN I FEEL BETTER.

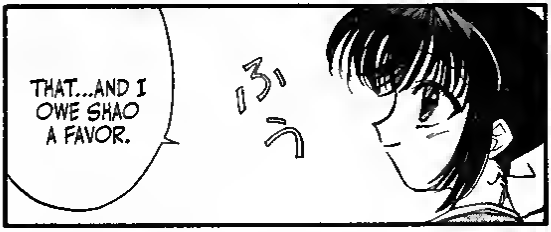
はんはん
カランカラン
IZUMO IS IN THE MIYAUCHI TEMPLE.
FIRST OF ALL, I'M GRATEFUL THAT I GET TO BE ALONE WITH SHAO.
AND SECONDLY, I HOPE THAT THIS YEAR I CAN GET CLOSER TO SHAO.
YES, AND IF POSSIBLE, IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD--
ポッ
IF POSSIBLE, IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD KISS. ♡
……

HELLO!
UGH, SHOUKO!
ばばっ
?
WHAT?
.....
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
BEST WISHES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD. ♡
WELL, I'LL BE GOING NOW!
I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY
OH... OKAY.
THAT WAS PAINLESS
LOOKS LIKE TASUKE'S GOING TO BE A WEIRDO FOR ANOTHER YEAR.
AND HERE I WENT TO A FAR AWAY TEMPLE TO AVOID IZUMO!!
HAVE MERCY!


♪
IT'S KIND OF CREEPY THE WAY SHE ALWAYS SHOWS UP.

DON'T THINK I'D LET YOU GO THAT EASILY.
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?!

TEE HEE. ♡

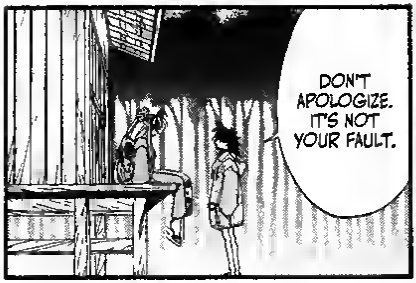

THAT...AND I OWE SHAO A FAVOR.

"THIS IS TO THANK YOU."
"I HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY!"

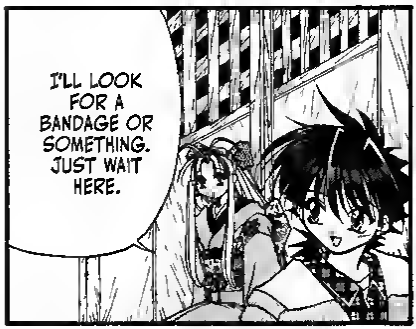
SHOUKO'S ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE THIS YEAR!
I'M GOING TO...
I KNOW WHAT I WILL DO!
...FIX YOU TWO UP!!
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.
NEW YEAR'S MEANS FANCY KIMONOS.
FANCY KIMONOS MEAN YOU CAN'T LIFT YOUR LEGS VERY HIGH.
PLUS YOU'RE WEARING ZORI, WHICH AREN'T VERY STABLE SHOES.
AND SO I WILL PUT INTO ACTION MY SECRET MATCH-MAKING MISSION OF TRIPPING SHAO...
...SO SHE CAN FALL INTO TASUKE'S ARMS!
WHAT A PLAN!

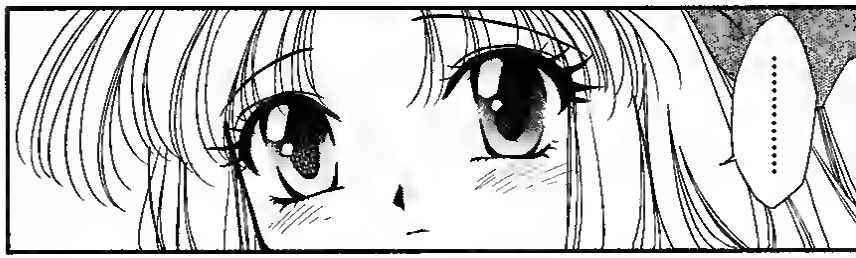
YAY!
カラ
カラ
LET'S GET SOME YAKITORI!
COME ON, SHAO.
OOOOH!
くぅ
HUH?!
ドン
TASUKE, YOU KLUTZ! DON'T FALL DOWN WITH HER!!
……
しりもち

...OH.
むくっ
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? YOU SURPRISED ME.
A NEW LOVE FOR THE NEW YEAR?
WHOA!! WHOA!!
I'M TOTALLY HOLDING HER!
DID YOU TWIST YOUR ANKLE?
N-NO. I'M FINE.
THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE SAYS OTHER-WISE.
うぅ..
STING STING
.....


DON'T APOLOGIZE. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.


I'LL LOOK FOR A BANDAGE OR SOMETHING. JUST WAIT HERE.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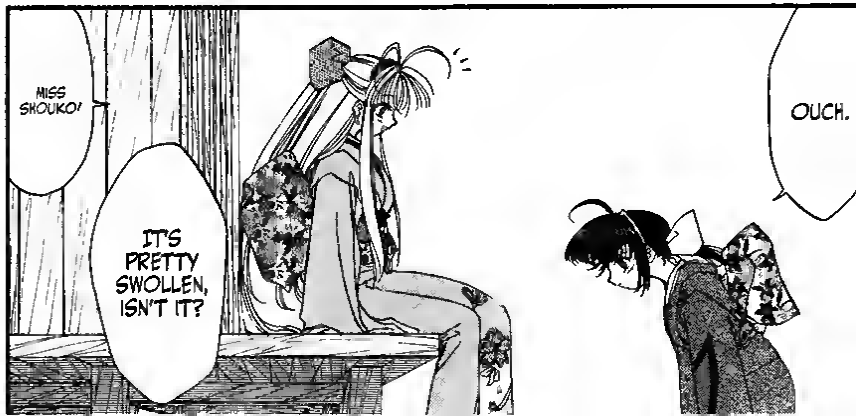

MISS SHOUKO!
IT'S PRETTY SWOLLEN, ISN'T IT?
OUCH.

SORRY.
IT'S MY FAULT YOU GOT HURT.
IT IS?
I BET TASUKE WOULD BE PISSED IF HE KNEW.
HE'S LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON AROUND YOU.
HE'S USUALLY SUCH A NICE GUY.
I'LL PRAY THAT YOU GET WELL SOON.
AFTER ALL, IT IS NEW YEAR'S..
パーパン
くす。
OH, SPEAKING OF PRAYING, YOU PRAYED FOR A LONG TIME EARLIER.
WHAT DID YOU ASK FOR?

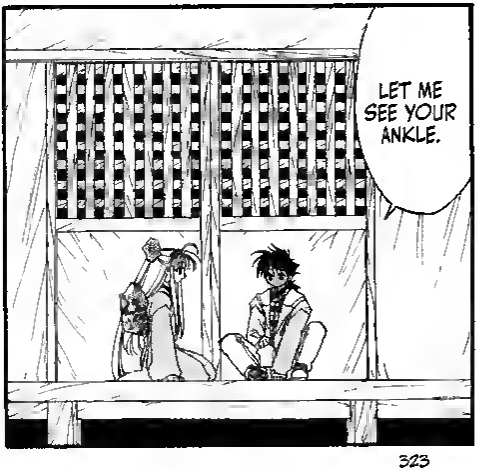
OH...
I HAD BEEN IN THE SHITENRIN FOR MANY YEARS...
...AND IT IS MY FIRST TIME IN THIS COUNTRY, SO...
...I THOUGHT I SHOULD PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE GODS HERE.
AND THEN...
...I THANKED THEM...
...AFTER THAT...
...FOR ALLOWING ME TO MEET MASTER TASUKE.

MISS SHOUKO.
I AM A SHUGO-GETTEN.
.....
YES.
.....
THAT'S IT?
YOU KNOW, SHAO...
THAT'S NOT PRAYING, THAT'S GIVING THANKS, ISN'T IT?
I EXIST ONLY...
...TO PROTECT MY MASTER FROM DANGER AND MISFORTUNE...
...AND TO MAKE SURE HE IS HAPPY AND SAFE.
I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS CORRECT TO...
...PRAY FOR THINGS...
...OR WANT THINGS FOR MYSELF.

SHAO, YOU ARE...
...ALSO A GIRL!
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
...AND TO WISH FOR SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU.
IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU...
...TO ASK THE GODS FOR STUFF...

BESIDES ...
...TASUKE DEFINITELY DOESN'T THINK...
...OF HIMSELF AS YOUR MASTER!
OH, AND REMEMBER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU.
UH-OH! TASUKE WILL BE BACK SOON.
I THINK I'LL GET GOING--I DON'T WANT TO SEE TASUKE WHEN HE FINDS OUT I HURT YOU
I BET...
...HE WOULD BE HAPPY IF THERE WERE THINGS THAT YOU WANTED FOR YOURSELF.

SPIED ON THEM FROM THE SHADOWS THE LAST TIME.



WHOA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW ME THAT MUCH!
IT'S CALLED MODESTY
OH, YES
SURE.
PEEK
I THINK I'LL TEACH HER MORE ABOUT THAT THIS YEAR.
HMM?
MASTER TASUKE.

WHA...
...WHAT?
?
WOWEE!!

H-HUH? HASN'T THIS HAPPENED BEFORE?
THAT WAS WHEN... SHOUKO...
SIGH... SHE TOLD SHAO TO DO THIS, DIDN'T SHE?
SO THAT WAS HER LAST TIME TOO
BUT, WAIT A MINUTE..
WITH IZUMO AND RUAN AROUND, I MIGHT NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE!
I'MA GONNA GIT IN YER WAY!
I'MA GONNA GIT IN YER WAY!
THIS IS THE BIG CHANCE THAT I JUST PRAYED FOR!!
BUT SHOUKO IS THE ONE WHO PUT HER UP TO IT
I'M GOING TO DO IT!

BTHUMP
?
BTHUMP
BTHUMP
BTHUMP
BTHUMP

.....
SHAO...
DO YOU KNOW...
...WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO?
NO.

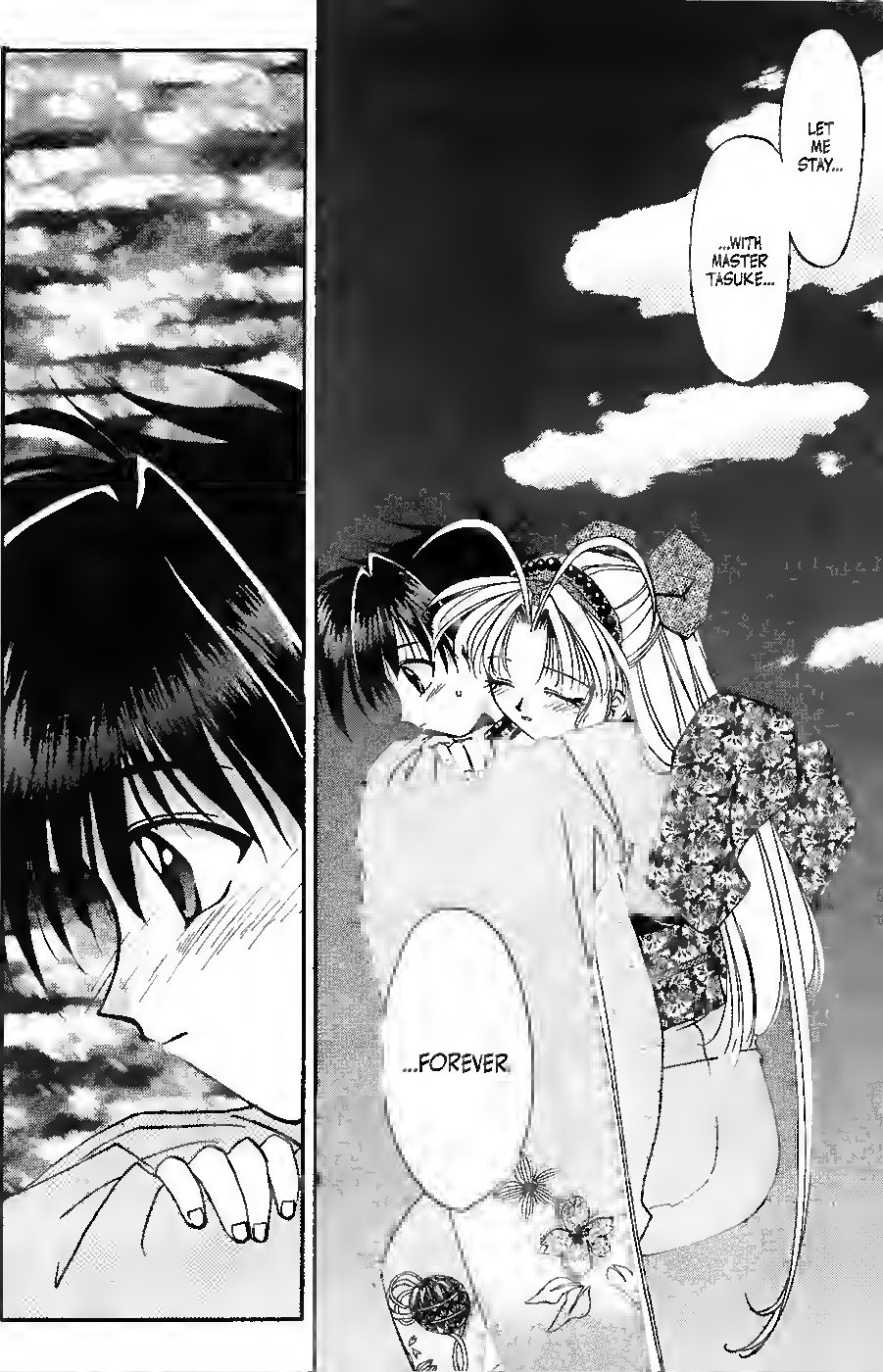
?
I WON'T.
.....
WHEN YOU LEARN A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THINGS...
...AND YOU KNOW WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO DO...
...AND IF...

...IF YOU STILL WANT TO DO THAT, THEN...
...IT'D MAKE ME REALLY HAPPY.
I'M SURE SOMEDAY I'LL HAPPEN WITHOUT ANYONE'S HELP...
...AND WITHOUT RELYING ON THE GODS.
WANT TO GO HOME?
ぽっ
THERE'S NO REASON TO RUSH THINGS.

...YES.
.....
GET ON MY BACK. I'LL CARRY YOU.
YOUR ANKLE HURTS TOO MUCH TO WALK, RIGHT?
B-BUT THAT'S...
I'M FINE. KENEN CAN...
...CARRY ME HOME.
"IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU..."
"YOU ARE ALSO A GIRL!"
.....
THANK YOU.
.....
"...TO ASK THE GODS FOR STUFF AND TO WISH FOR SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU."

HMM?
MASTER TASUKE.
SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME.
...SO IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO ASK FOR THINGS.
...THAT EVEN THOUGH I'M A SHUGOGETTEN, I'M STILL A GIRL...
YOU KNOW, MISS SHOUKO SAID...
O-OH REAL-LY?
...I WANTED TO TELL YOU.
IT MADE ME VERY HAPPY, SO...

ぱん
CLAP
ぱん
CLAP
MUTTER
PLEASE, GODS.
PLEASE...


LET ME STAY...
...WITH MASTER TASUKE...
...FOREVER

LATE!!
LATE, LATE!!
WHY HAVEN'T THEY COME BACK YET? ARGH!
KISS.
THEY WOULDN'T! THEY BETTER NOT BE DOING THAT!
DAMMIT!!
WHY AM I ALWAYS LEFT BEHIND?!
SHAAAA!
ARGH!

OH... UMM, YOU KNOW...
YES?
SIGH... WE'RE ALREADY HOME
OH!
I FORGOT TO BUY THE COTTON CANDY AND YAKITORI AND STUFF FOR RUUAN.
IT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD OMEN FOR THIS YEAR.
YES!!
SHOULD WE GO BACK TO THE TEMPLE?

CHAPTER 12
RISHU'S SACRIFICE AT THE SNOWBALL FIGHT!

OH, RISHU!
THE SNOW HAS BEEN FALLING SINCE YESTERDAY ...
RISHU...
YAHOOO! IT'S SNOW! SNOOOW!!
...MAKING WHITE MOUNDS ON THE GROUND.
OH DEAR!!
I WOULD BE THE FIRST PERSON TO FACE PLANT.

OKAY, EVERY-BODY! IT'S TIME FOR...
...A SNOWBALL FIGHT!
YEAH!!
HEY, HOW LONG ARE YOU...
...PLANNING TO STAND ON ME?
OOPS
MR. MIYAUCHI, KOICHIROU AND MISS RUUAN ARE ON MISS RUUAN'S TEAM.
UMM, ALL RIGHT, THEN I'LL PICK TEAMS.
TASUKE, SHAO AND I ARE ON SHAO'S TEAM.
AND RISHU IS AN ADDED BONUS.

ズルい
WHAT IS A SNOWBALL FIGHT?
YOU CAN SIT OUT IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY!
UMM...?
OKAY, READY? WE HAVE UNTIL LUNCH RECESS IS OVER.
MISS SHAORIN, I COULD NEVER CONSIDER YOU MY ENEMY.
YES!
OF COURSE, YOU ALSO HAVE TO DEFEND YOUR BASE FROM GETTING TAKEN BY YOUR OPPONENT!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
EEK!
UNDERSTAND?
IF A MEMBER OF ONE TEAM MAKES IT INTO THE OTHER TEAM'S BASE, THEY WIN!
WHOA!
THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO PLAY, BUT THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO TAKE OVER THE OTHER TEAM'S BASE.
A GAME WHERE EVERYONE THROWS SNOWBALLS AT EACH OTHER!!
A SNOWBALL FIGHT IS...
THAT HURTS, YOU KNOW!
EVERYONE, TAKE YOUR PLACES...
I SEE. SO AT ANY RATE, YOU WIN IF YOU BURY YOUR ENEMIES IN THE SNOW AND THEY FREEZE TO DEATH, RIGHT?
I THINK YOU MISSED SOMETHING.

MASTER TASUKE.
I SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU.
OKAY, TASUKE, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF TAKING THEIR BASE!!
OKAY!!
ビシッ!!
ALWAYS BEING WITH TASUKE ISN'T THE ONLY THING...
...THAT'S GOOD FOR HIM, RIGHT?!!
WAIT A MINUTE, SHAO.
すー
LIM, YOUR JOB IS TO DEFEND THE BASE WITH ME!
I SUPPOSE THAT IS TRUE.
RIGHT RIGHT
YOU JUST WANT TO BE WITH SHAO!
DON'T FALL FOR HIS LINES SO EASILY SHAO!!
ちらっ
.....

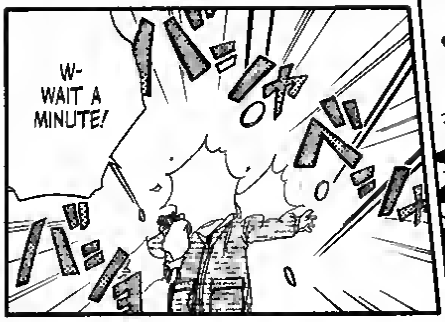
...MASTER TASUKE FOR ME.
ALL RIGHT, RISHU...
..I AM TRUSTING YOU TO TAKE CARE OF..
KOHON, HELP MASTER TASUKE AND RISHU, OKAY?
WAIT A MOMENT, PLEASE!!
OH, OH, BUT WAIT!
HOSHIGAMI KOHON
GOD OF THE CONSTELLATION LEO, THE LION
AN EXPERT IN ALL KINDS OF SPORTS AND THE ULTIMATE COACH
RA! RA!, KOHON!!
LET'S GO, RISHU, KOHON!
RISHU DOESN'T NEED HELP..

I'M NOT GOING EASY ON YOU, KID!!
ATTACK!!
IT'S LIKE MAKING RICE BALLS.
YES.
COME ON, SHAO, WE NEED TO MAKE LOTS OF SNOWBALLS.
!!!

?!
AAH.
COME ON, TAKASHI, HELP ME OUT HERE!
KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF MISS SHAORIN, YOU IDIOT!
GRP!
PLAY THE GAME RIGHT!
ESPECIALLY YOU, TASUKE!!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!

RUUAN'S TEAM BASE
HEH HEH HEH.
I'M SORRY, I TEND TO LOSE MYSELF IN BATTLE.
IF I AM IN CHARGE OF DEFENDING THE BASE, THEN I WILL DEFINITELY...
...DEFEND IT WITH MY LIFE!!
LOOK!!
ATTACK, MY CHILDREN!!
THAT'S AMAZING, TEACHER!
ガオー!!

HA HA HA!
MR. PITCHING MACHINE, GET THEM!!
NUMBER 1 PITCHING MACHINE!
TRY A LITTLE TOUGH LOVE!!
MASTER TAA!
EEEEEK!
THE SNOWBALLS ARE SO FAST I CAN'T SEE THEM COMING
ACK!!
HEY, HEY, HEY, HEY!
"I AM TRUSTING YOU TO TAKE CARE OF MASTER TASUKE."

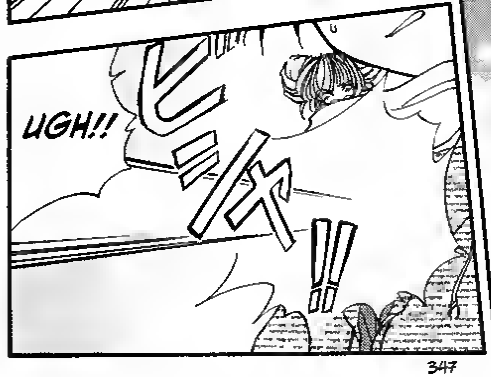

W-WAIT A MINUTE!

!!

"I AM TRUSTING YOU TO TAKE CARE OF MASTER TASUKE."

ACK! HERE IT COMES AGAIN!!
AND THEY'RE FASTER THAN BEFORE!

J-JEEZ, RUUAN...
IT'S ONLY A GAME.

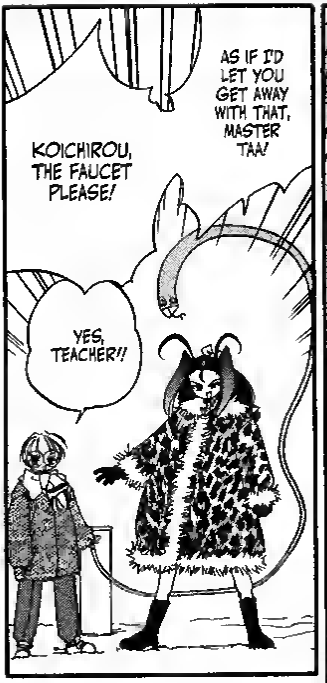

UGH!!

"I AM TRUSTING YOU TO TAKE CARE OF..."
"...MASTER TASUKE."
YIPES!
..NGH.

OKAY, I'M COUNTING ON YOU, KOHON!

ALL RIGHT, GUYS. IF THIS KEEPS UP...
むぐ!!
...WE'LL NEVER GET PAST THEIR ATTACKS TO TAKE THEIR BASE!

WE NEED TO LAUNCH A COUNTER-ATTACK!!
GOOD THINKING, KID.
I'LL TEACH YOU MY SPECIAL THROWING TECHNIQUE.


AS IF I'D LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THAT, MASTER TAA!
KOICHIROU, THE FAUCET PLEASE!
YES, TEACHER!!

.....

I-IT'S COLD, STUPID.
WH-WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!
...THEY AREN'T GOING TO LET US MAKE ANY SNOWBALLS.
SOAKING WET
SO...
IT'S TOO WET NOW!
THIS TIME, RISHU WILL DO SOMETHING!
KOHON COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL EXCITED ABOUT, RISHU?
RISHU?
RISHU CAN PROTECT MASTER TASUKE TOO!
PEEK

I KNOW YOU WANT TO HELP...
...BUT THOSE BIG SNOWBALLS COULD REALLY HURT YOU.
TASUKE, YOUR PANTS ARE DRENCHED
YOU'LL BE SAFE IN MY JACKET.
.....

HOSHIGAMI GUNNANMON SO IMPOSING AND FIERCE THAT NO ONE WILL GO NEAR HIM AND HENCE, THE ULTIMATE DEFENDER.
THEN YOUR TEAM IS CHEATING TOO!
ずん!
THAT'S CHEATING! YOU CAN'T USE THE BIG GUY.
I CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO THE BASE NOW!
HUUH...
E--
...ENOUGH ALREADY!
AHAHAHAHAHAHA!
NO FAIR!
I-I AM COUNTING ON YOU, RISHU...

ARE YOU OKAY, RISHU?
I CAN'T MOVE.
I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP HERE.
.....
HUH?
SHE'S NOT HERE!
RISHU?
WH- WHERE'D SHE GO?! RISHU!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WON'T LADY GETTEN GET MAD AT YOU...
...IF YOU DON'T STAY WITH THE KID?
WELL...
...I GUESS SHE'LL GET MAD IF YOU GO DOWN WITH HIM, ANYWAY.
YOU'RE PRETTY USELESS, AREN'T YOU?

JUST WHEN LADY GETTEN LEFT THE KID TO YOU...
YEAH, I BET SHE'LL BE MAD.
ASK OF A BULLY
SHE MAY BE SWEET, BUT SHE'S STILL SCARY WHEN SHE GETS MAD.
I'VE SEEN IT

IT'S THE KID...
SO THAT'S IT.
WHAT? ARE YOU THAT AFRAID OF LADY GETTEN GETTING MAD AT YOU?
D-DON'T CRY! HEY!!
WAAAH! えーん
YOU WANT TO PROTECT HIM TOO, DON'T YOU?

WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
THERE, THERE.
I'LL COACH YOU.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS EVEN YOU CAN DO.
MASTER TAA'S OVER THERE NOW?
WHEN DID HE--?
H--
HUH?

HEY KID!!
GET OUT OF HERE WHILE RISHU HAS RUIJIAN DISTRACTED WITH THE DECOY!
PITCHING BOY, OVER THERE! OVER THERE!
WHEN DID HE BECOME "PITCHING BOY"?

REALLY?
WHAT IS SHE THINKING? SHE'S GOING TO GET HURT!
.....
...RISHU WAS SAD BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T HELP YOU.
YOU KNOW...

AND NOW THAT MASTER TAA IS WEAK, I WILL CAPTURE HIM! ♡
ぼよーん
HUMPH.
MASTER TAA, DON'T MOVE!
ぷらーん
"CRACK"?
CRACK
I'VE GOT SOME LOVIN' FOR YA!!
RISHU, YOU TRICKED ME!!
YOU LITTLE TRAMP!

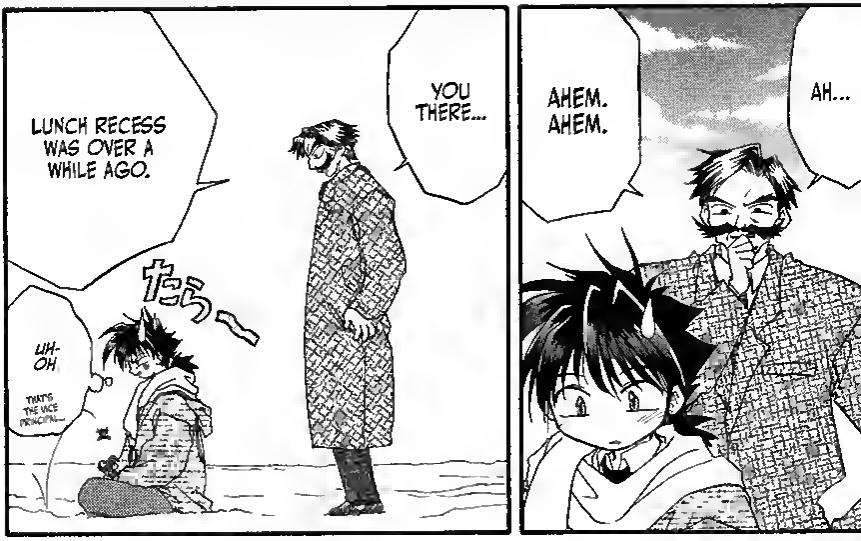
HOW DARE YOU DECEIVE ME, RISHU! UNFORGIVABLE!
PREPARE TO LAUNCH THE SUPER SNOWBALL!!
NUMBER 1 Freeze Maker
ガチャン!!!
FIRE!!
RISHUUU!
!!
ヒュウウウウ

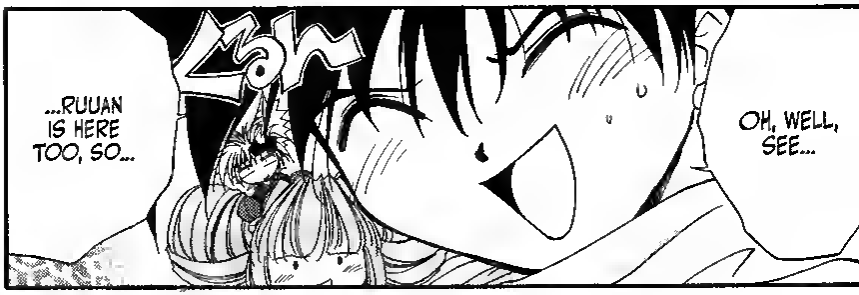
IT'S AMAZING HOW FAST HE GOT OUT OF THERE.
MASTER TAA!!
MAST--!
RISHU...
RISHU !!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
.....
"WHY ISN'T RISHU..."
"...ANY HELP TO TASUKE?"
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE THINKING, WASN'T IT?

RISHU, YOUR JOB IS...
...TO SEND MESSAGES TO SHAO, RIGHT?
BUT YOU'RE SO SMALL AND...
...SO CUTE!
IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT...
...YOU WOULD TRY SO HARD TO PROTECT ME.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER AND...
...MAKE ME WORRY, OKAY?
ANYWAY...

THANK YOU, LITTLE ONE.
AHEM.


LUNCH RECESS WAS OVER A WHILE AGO.
YOU THERE...
たら～
UH-OH
THAT'S THE VICE PRINCIPAL...
AHEM. AHEM.
AH...


...RUUAN IS HERE TOO, SO...
OH, WELL, SEE...

ポ～ン
WHO DID YOU SAY WAS WITH YOU?
UH.
HUH?

LET'S MAKE A RUN FOR IT TOO!
RISHU. KOHON.
O...KAY.
!!
MASTER TASUKE!
YOO HOO!
YOU GUYS, THAT WAS REALLY MEAN.
WAIT! HEY YOU--!!
I'M SORRY!!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR NOT PAYING ATTENTION.
COME BACK HERE!

IT'S THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, AND WE'RE TAKING A TRIP.
SHAO WON A ONE-NIGHT, TWO-DAY HOT SPRINGS VACATION AT THE MALL...
...AND WE ALL DECIDED TO COME.

OKAY, OKAY.
RIDING ALONG IN MY AUTOMOBILE...
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP WITH THE KARAOKE IN THE CAR?!
WHY DO I HAVE TO BABYSIT THESE BRATS ANYWAY?
MY BABY BECIDE ME AT THE WHEEL.
MMMHM. DO YOU WANT ONE, SHAO?

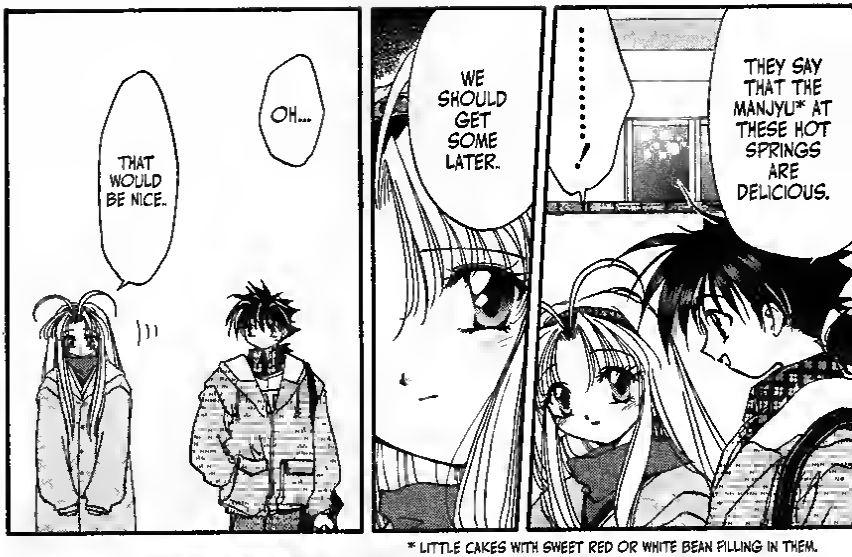
NO THANK YOU MISS SHOUKO
I HAVE NOT HAD MUCH OF AN APPETITE LATELY.
HMM?

CHAPTER 13
HOT SPRINGS VACATIONS ARE A LOT OF TROUBLE! (PART 01)

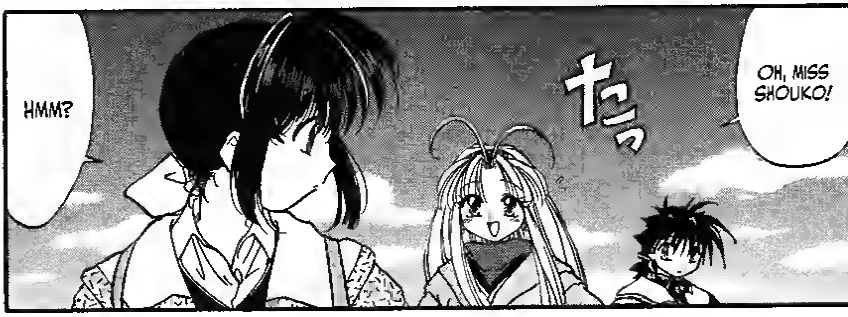
TASUKE

IT LOOKS LIKE...
...WE'VE FINALLY ARRIVED.
FUURIN KAZAN
SHAO AND I WILL BE IN ONE ROOM AND...
...AND THERE ARE SEVEN OF US, SO...
WELL, WE HAVE TWO ROOMS RESERVED...
FORGET ABOUT THEM! FORGET ABOUT THEM!
...THE REST OF YOU ARE IN THE OTHER ROOM.

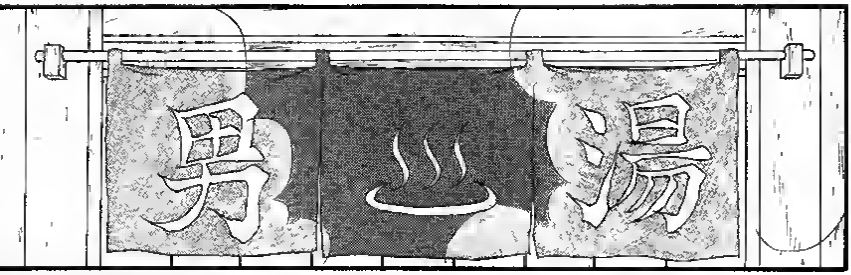
NOW, NOW, EVERYONE CALM DOWN.
HEY! DON'T IGNORE ME!
WHAT? I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, TEACHER!
THAT'S NOT FAIR TASUKE!
RUUAN HAS TO BE WITH MASTER TAA!
IN THIS SITUATION, I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE...
...A ROOM FOR THE GIRLS AND A ROOM FOR THE GUYS.
I HAVE TO GET CLOSER TO SHAO WHILE WE'RE HERE.
IF WE WERE IN THE SAME ROOM, I WOULDN'T GET TO ENJOY SNEAKING INTO HERS.
IT'S DECIDED! LET'S GO.
HE'S THE ADULT

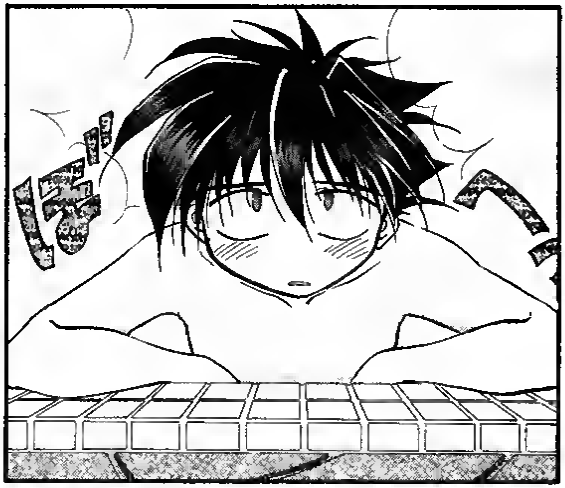


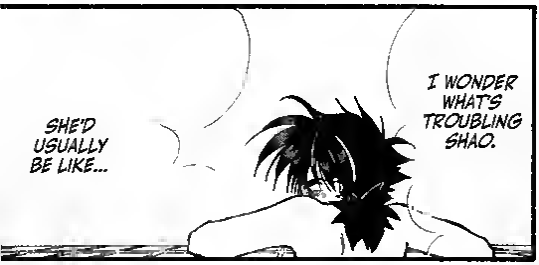
* LITTLE CAKES WITH SWEET RED OR WHITE BEAN FILLING IN THEM.

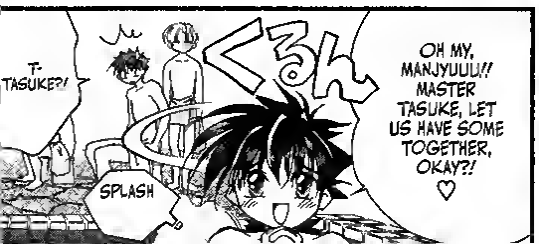


SIGN READS: MEN'S HOT SPRINGS









SHE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND GET ALL HAPPY... NORMALLY.
IT'S WEIRD...
YEAH, WEIRD IS RIGHT.
IT BEING YOU.
すっ
スタ
……!!!
はぁあ

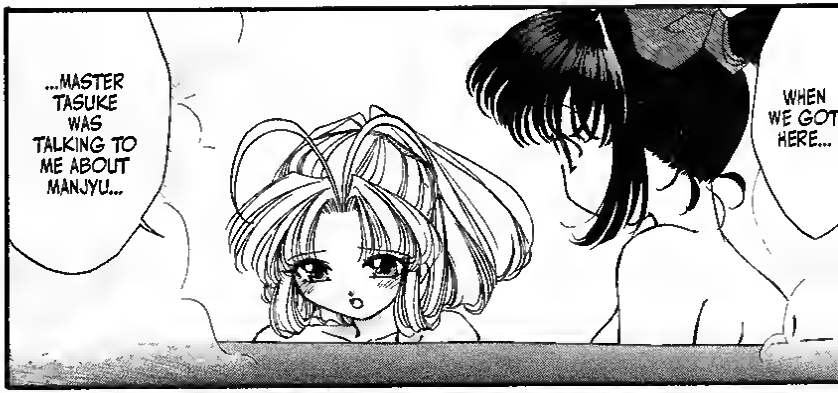
?!
MASTER TAA, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. ♡
R-R-R-RUUAN!!
THIS IS THE GUY'S HOT SPRINGS
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
HUMPH!!
WHY?
TEACHER, THAT'S MEAN!!
YOU GUYS ARE IN MY WAY!

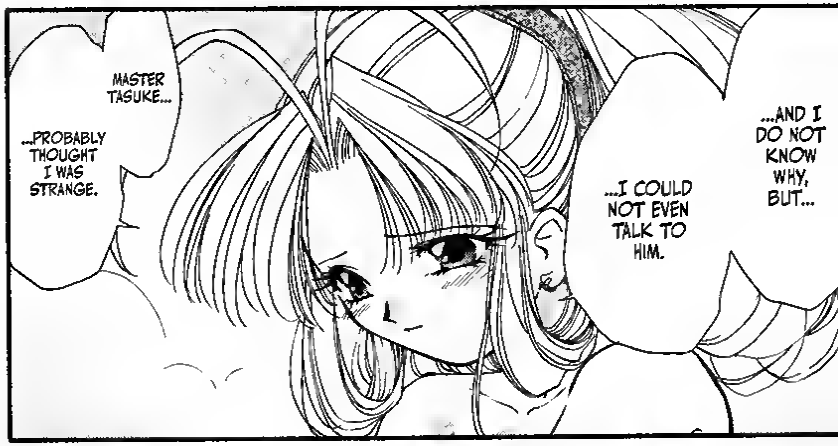
MASTER TAA.
WE ARE...
...ALL ALONE AND HALF NAKED. ♡
DON'T EMBARRASS ME TOO MUCH BY REFUSING. ♡
EEE...
IF YOU'RE A REAL MAN, YOU WON'T HOLD BACK.
I DON'T HAVE TO BE A MAN!
BOOP

HEY!
HOW DARE YOU RUN AWAY FROM ME!!
ナデナデ
Mmmmmmmm!!
SIGN WOMEN'S
HEY... SHAO.
.....
SHAO?
YES?

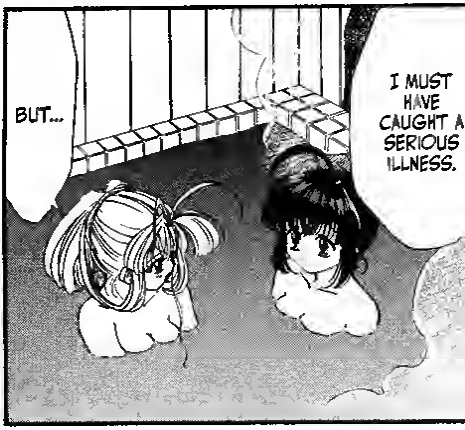
YOU SEEM KIND OF SAD.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND TASUKE?
I THINK I MIGHT BE SICK.
MISS SHOUKO... I...
.....
SOME-HOW...
I DO NOT KNOW.

.....
.....
WHEN MASTER TASUKE IS...
...WITH MISS RUUAN...
...IT HURTS VERY BADLY.
MY CHEST...
...ACHES.


...MASTER TASUKE WAS TALKING TO ME ABOUT MANJYU...
WHEN WE GOT HERE...


MASTER TASUKE...
...PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS STRANGE.
...I COULD NOT EVEN TALK TO HIM.
...AND I DO NOT KNOW WHY, BUT...

I DO NOT KNOW...
...WHAT TO DO OR HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER.


BUT...
I MUST HAVE CAUGHT A SERIOUS ILLNESS.

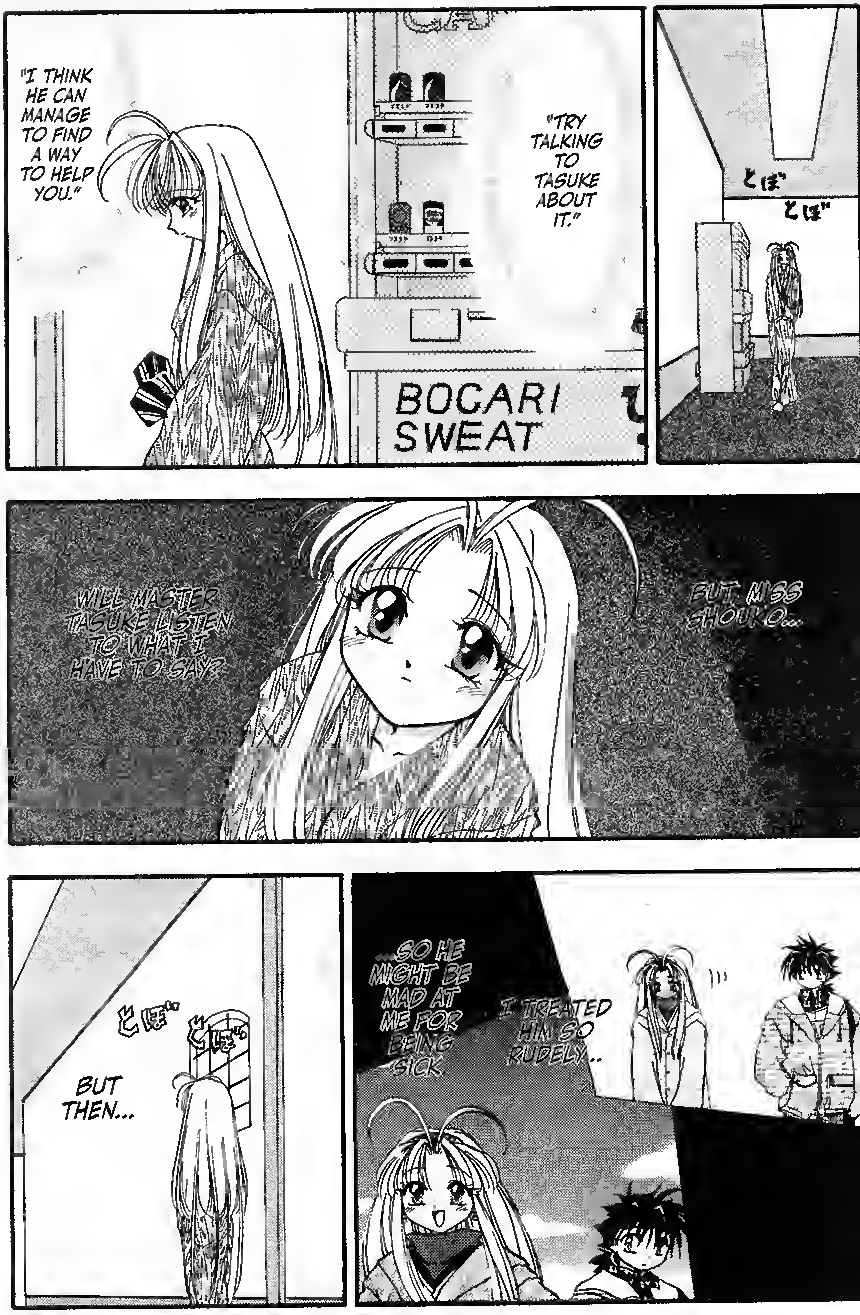
HMM... SO EVEN SPIRITS!..
...FALL IN LOVE.
SHAO.
YES.
YOU ARE, IN FACT, SICK.
IT'S CALLED LOVESICKNESS!
WHIP

MASTER TASUKE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CURE ME?
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CURE YOU OF IT...
...IS TASUKE.
I THINK HE CAN MANAGE TO FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU.
TRY TALKING TO TASUKE ABOUT IT
.....
...YES.

...TASUKE.
BAFUHE (TASUKE).
はあ
はあ
SORRY, EVERYONE.
はあ
はあ
IF RUUAN COMES...
...TELL HER I'M NOT HERE.
HEE HEE HEE.
OH, MASTER TAA, REALLY.
TOO LATE, TASUKE...
TEE HEE.
そそそそ
YOU'LL NEVER GIVE UP

YOU'RE ALL EMBARRASSED. THAT'S SO CUTE! ♡
NOOOOO!!
N-NOT AGAIN.
I KNEW IT!!

...RUUAN.
YOU ARE...
...SELF-CENTERED.
OH NO, DARLING, YOU ARE WRONG!
...SOOOOO...
I'M MASTER TAA...
...CENTRIC. ♡
OOH, BROTHER.


"I THINK HE CAN MANAGE TO FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU."
"TRY TALKING TO TASUKE ABOUT IT."
BOCARI
SWEAT
とぼ"
とぼ"
WILL MASTER TASUKE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?
BUT MISS SHOU'O...
BUT THEN...
とぼ"
とぼ"
...SO HE MIGHT BE MAD AT ME FOR BEING SICK.
I TREATED HIM SO RUDELY...

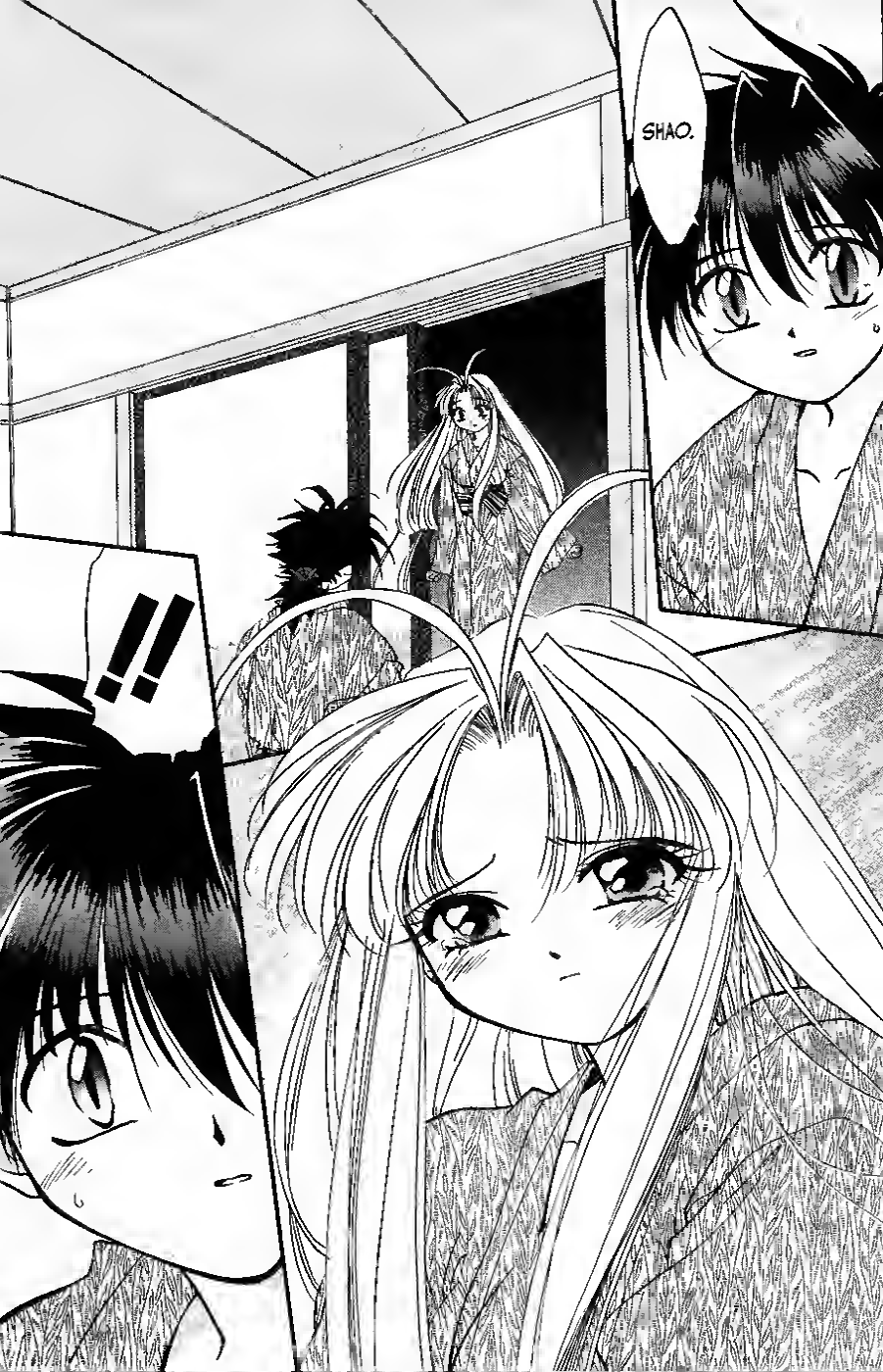
I'LL GO ASK.
MASTER TASUKE IS VERY KIND. I AM SURE HE WILL HELP ME.
...IT IS RUDE TO THINK THAT ABOUT MASTER TASUKE.
YES!
IT IS ALL RIGHT.
IT IS ALL RIGHT.
GO, ME!
MASTER TAA, WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!
HEY!!
OH!!

LIKE I'M A DOG OR SOMETHING...
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE TASTE.
パク
HERE, MASTER TAA. COME HERE.
THESE TASTY MANJYU ARE WAITING FOR YOU.
REALLY...
HOT SPRINGS MANJYU
OH! MY GOD, THEY'RE DELICIOUS!
DELICIOUS! DELICIOUS!
SHAO.
WHY DID I...?
OH...
THAT'S NICE.
WE SHOULD GET SOME LATER.
THEY SAY THAT THE MANJYU AT THESE HOT SPRINGS ARE DELICIOUS.

HERE, OPEN WIDE.
LIMM, YOU KNOW...
YOU SCARED ME!
MASTER TAA, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I'LL FEED IT TO YOU WITH MY MOUTH. ♡
パク
NO, I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!
OUCH!
カン
I SAID STOP IT!!
MMMMMMM...
WELL, TAKE IT...

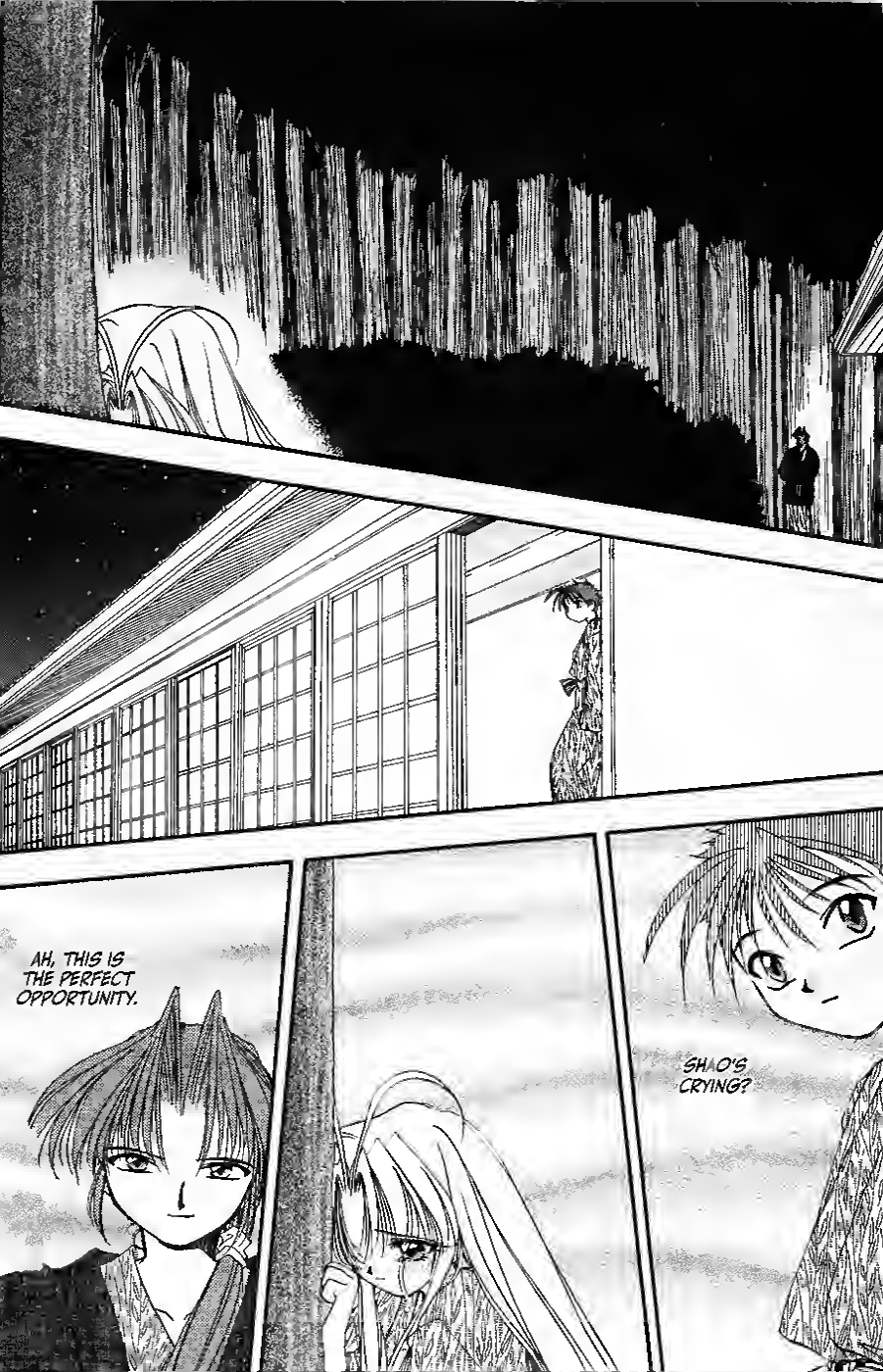
すっ
I WILL TRY MY BEST TO TELL HIM.
THIS IS IT.
...A...ROOM...
OH...

MASTER TASUKE...
!...


SHAO.
!!

カバーッ
...SHAO.
パターン
パタ
SHAO!!
パタ
パタ
LET HER GO! YOU'VE GOT ME!
がばっ
BACK OFF!
AAAAAH!
!AOOOOO!!

MY CHEST HURTS SO MUCH I C...NNOT BREATHE.
IT HURTS...
HUFF
HUFF
WHY...?
...MASTER TASUKE.


AH, THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY.
SHAO'S CRYING?

CHAPTER 14
HOT SPRINGS VACATIONS ARE A LOT OF TROUBLE! (PART TWO)

SHAO.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT EVERYONE...
...HAS TIMES WHEN THEY WANT TO BE ALONE?

MR. IZUMO.
MR. TAKASHI
OH...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE IN THE COLD.
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR DINNER. WHY DON'T WE GO INSIDE?
OH... YES.
I SUP-POSE WE SHOULD.

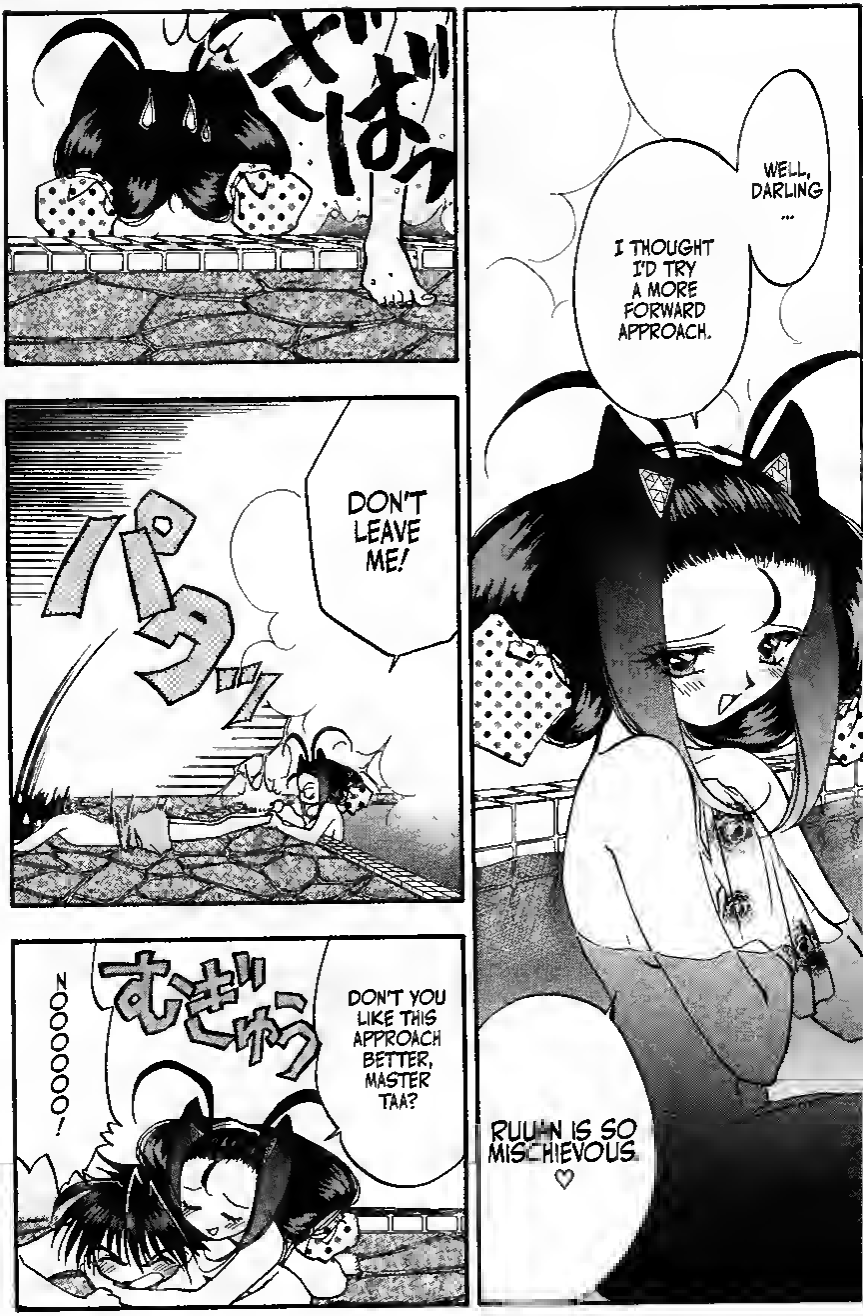
DON'T WORRY, KID...
...SHE'S OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE ANYWAY.
THANK YOU... MR. IZUMO.
HA HA.
ふぁさ
WH-WHAT?!
SIIIGH...
MASTER TAA, OPEN UP
HERE YA GOOO.
MASTER TAA, OPEN WIDE. ♡
ガヤ
DINING

HERE. TRY A LITTLE BITE. ♡
RUUAN, YOU...
...REALLY ARE A PAIN IN THE NECK.
I'M SORRY, DARLING, IS IT BECAUSE OF MY BEAUTY?
OH, MASTER TAA. ♡
THAT'S SO NOT IT.
.....
UH...SHHO, YOU DROPPED YOUR MEATBALL.
MISS SHOUKO, I AM GOING TO RETURN TO THE ROOM.
UM... OKAY.
AH!

HUH?!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
WHERE'D HE GO?
TRIP
WHAP
SHA~
HOW ABOUT WE GET OUT OF HERE AND TAKE A DRIVE?
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO, THAT IS.
MISS SHAORIN.
OH! YOU ATE SOME!
GULP
HE'S FAST!

YES.
EXCELLENT. THEN IT'S DECIDED.
LET'S GO.
.....
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH.
LOOKS LIKE HE TOOK A PRETTY BIG HIT.
YEAH...

HUH?
ちゃぽん
...OF HER OWN FREE WILL.
SHAO LEFT WITH HIM...
UH...
OOH, THE WATER IS JUST TOO PERFECT.
チョポーン
RUUAN IS SO EMBARRASSED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SEEING ME LIKE THIS. TEE HEE. ♡
WHAT?!
OH MY, MASTER TAA, WHAT A COINCIDENCE!


WELL, DARLING ...
I THOUGHT I'D TRY A MORE FORWARD APPROACH.
RUUHN IS SO MISCHIEVOUS ♡
DON'T LEAVE ME!
パタン
DON'T YOU LIKE THIS APPROACH BETTER, MASTER TAA?
むぎゅう
NOOOOOO!

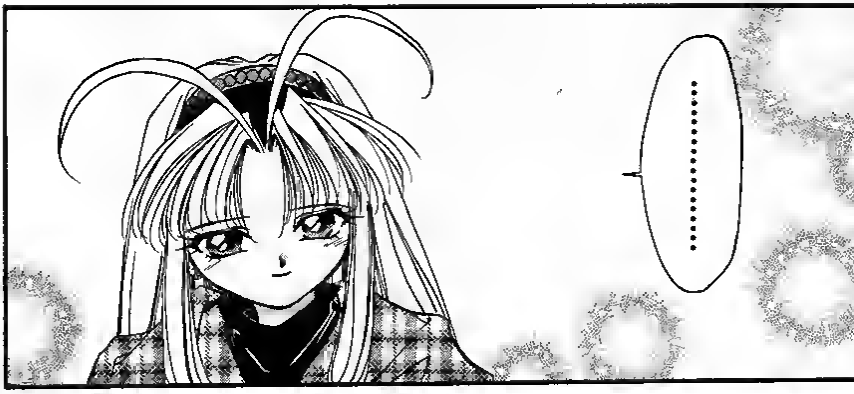
WELL, HE IS AN ADULT.. AND A PRIEST.
...LIKE IZUMO MORE THAN ME.
SO SHAO DOES..
ガッ
AND NOW IT'S YOU.
JUST WHEN I GOT AWAY FROM RUIJIN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
HEY, TASUKE.

WOULDN'T YOU USUALLY HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO BREAK THEM UP ALREADY?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LEAVE THEM ALONE TOGETHER?
...BE GOING AFTER SHAO AND IZUMO?
SHOUL-DN'T YOU...
SHAO WENT WITH HIM...
...OF HER OWN FREE WILL.

SLAP
SHE PROBABLY LIKES HIM...
...BETTER THAN ME.
I FEEL...
...SORRY FOR SHAO!

I DIDN'T THINK...
...YOU WERE THAT STUPID!!
...THAT'S WHY SHAO WAS CRYING!
STUPID!!

YOU CAN SEE...
...SO MANY STARS OUT HERE.
I AM FINE.
ARE YOU COLD?
...IT MAKES ME THINK ABOUT THE PAST.
WHEN I LOOK AT THEM...
STARS NEVER CHANGE.
...OF MASTERS YOU'VE SERVED.
...AND WHAT KIND...
WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN AND WHO YOU HAVE KNOWN...
I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR PAST, MISS SHAORIN.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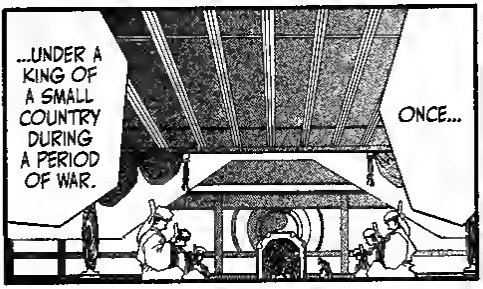
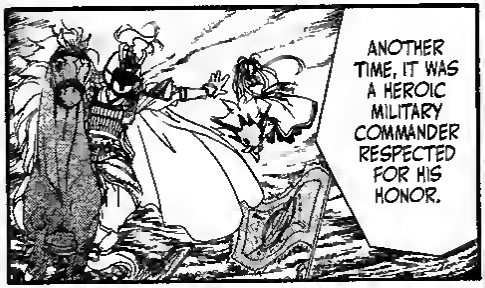
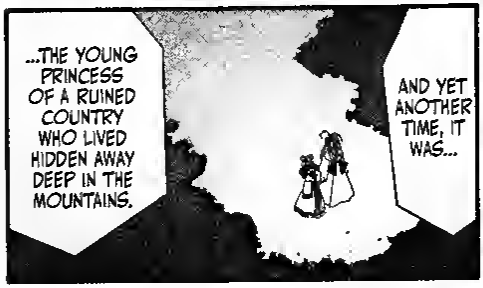

...UNDER A KING OF A SMALL COUNTRY DURING A PERIOD OF WAR.
ONCE...


ANOTHER TIME, IT WAS A HEROIC MILITARY COMMANDER RESPECTED FOR HIS HONOR.


...THE YOUNG PRINCESS OF A RUINED COUNTRY WHO LIVED HIDDEN AWAY DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
AND YET ANOTHER TIME, IT WAS...

I'VE...
...SERVED MANY MASTERS...
...OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

ALL MY MASTERS WERE PEOPLE WITH PURE HEARTS AND...
...I...
...WAS ABLE TO SERVE THEM HAPPILY WITH ALL MY HEART.
BUT...
...MASTER TASUKE IS...
.....

OH, MASTER TAA, WHERE WERE YOU?!!
FAFUFEE (TASUKE).
TASUKE...
.....

I...
...LIKE SHAO.
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, RUUAN.
ガシ
HUH?
.....
I CAN'T LET IZUMO HAVE HER.
THAT'S WHY...
...I WANT YOU TO HELP ME, RUUAN.
RUUAN GOT DUMPED...

WHY SHOULD I DO ANYTHING FOR THAT TRAMP?
I DON'T WANT TO.
PLEASE...
...RUUAN.

I NEED YOUR HELP!
PLEASE!!
THEY DROVE OFF IN A CAR...
...AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO THEM RUNNING AROUND IN THE MOUNTAINS BY MYSELF.

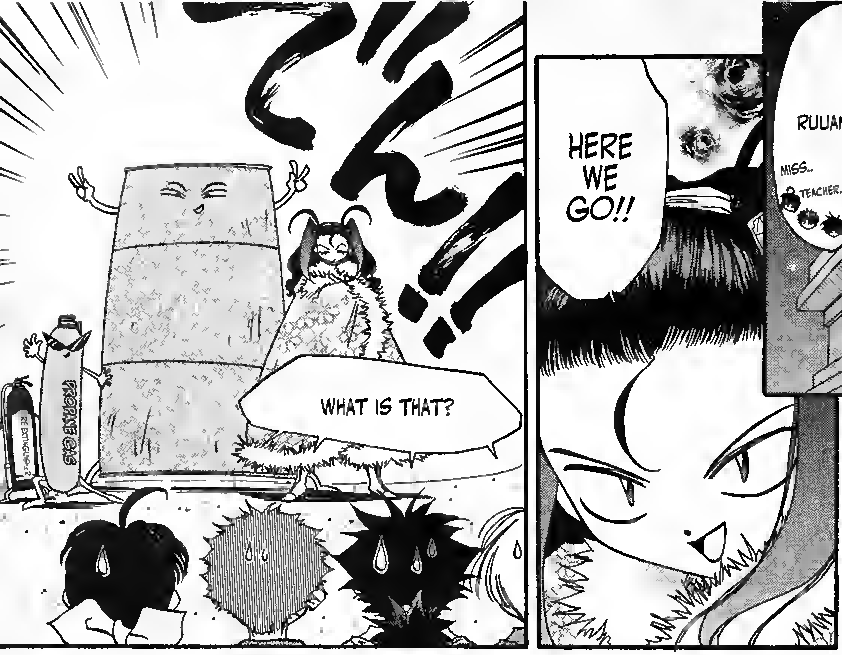
PLEASE...
...HELP ME!!
YOU KNOW...
...I THINK YOU'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING.
YOU ARE...
...MY MASTER AFTER ALL.

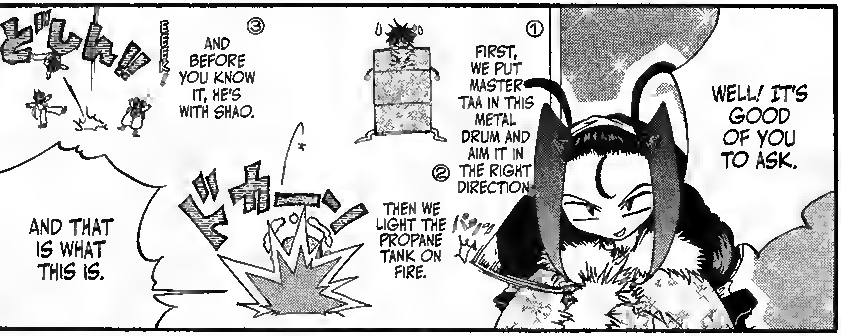
THERE'S NO WAY...
... I COULD TRULY REFUSE TO HONOR YOUR REQUEST.
...RUUAN.

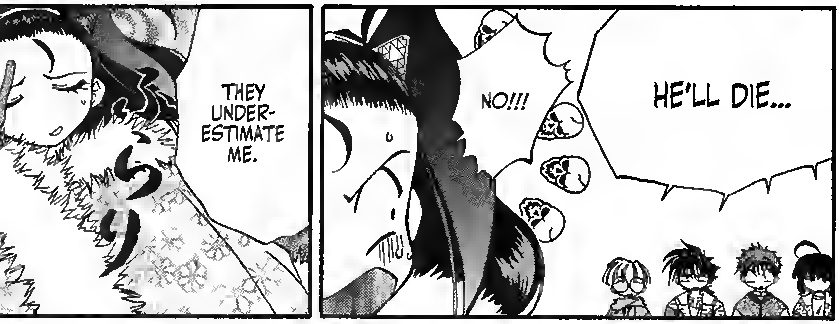
WHEN I FIRST...
...MET MASTER TASUKE...
...ALL BY HIMSELF IN A BIG HOUSE...
...HE LIVED...
AT THE TIME...
...HE SEEMED VERY LONELY.

...WANTED TO PROTECT MASTER TASUKE FROM HIS ISOLATION AND LONELINESS.
...I...
SO...
EVEN IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
MASTER TASUKE TOLD ME...
BUT...
AT FIRST, I FELT ABOUT HIM THE SAME WAY I FELT ABOUT ALL THE OTHERS.
I...
...WANTED FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART TO SERVE MASTER TASUKE AS A SHUGOGETTEN.
...IT'S HARD TO BE BY HIS SIDE.
...RIGHT NOW...

BUT NOW...
BUT NOW...
...SOMETHING IS...DIFFERENT.
MISS SHAORIN.
THAT MEANS ...
...THAT TASUKE ...
...IS NOT FIT TO BE YOUR MASTER, CORRECT?


WHAT IS THAT?
PROPANE GAS
EXTINGUISHER
HERE WE GO!!
RUUAN...
MISS..
TEACHER...

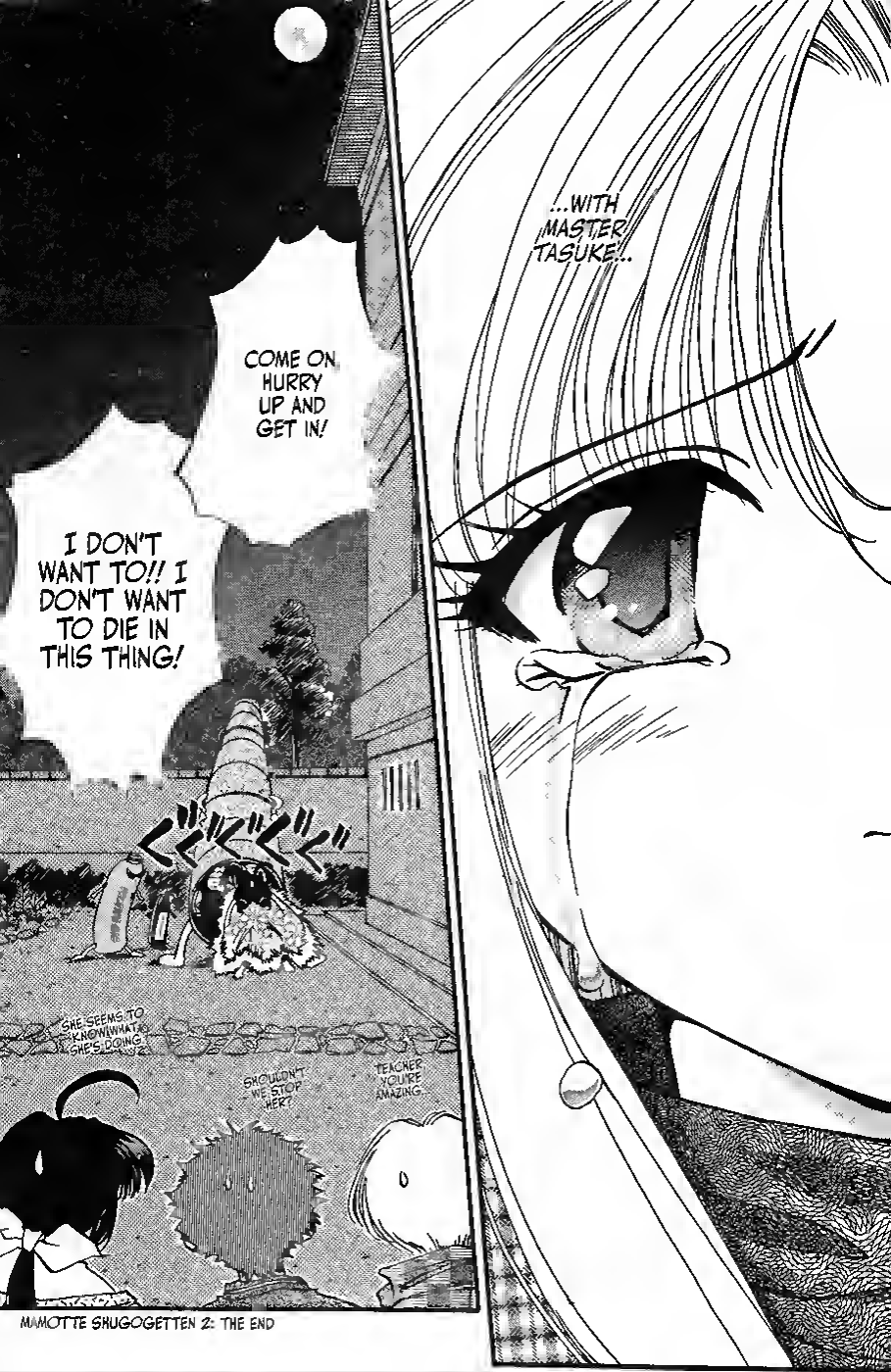

WELL! IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO ASK.
① FIRST, WE PUT MASTER TAA IN THIS METAL DRUM AND AIM IT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
② THEN WE LIGHT THE PROPANE TANK ON FIRE.
③ AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, HE'S WITH SHAO.
AND THAT IS WHAT THIS IS.

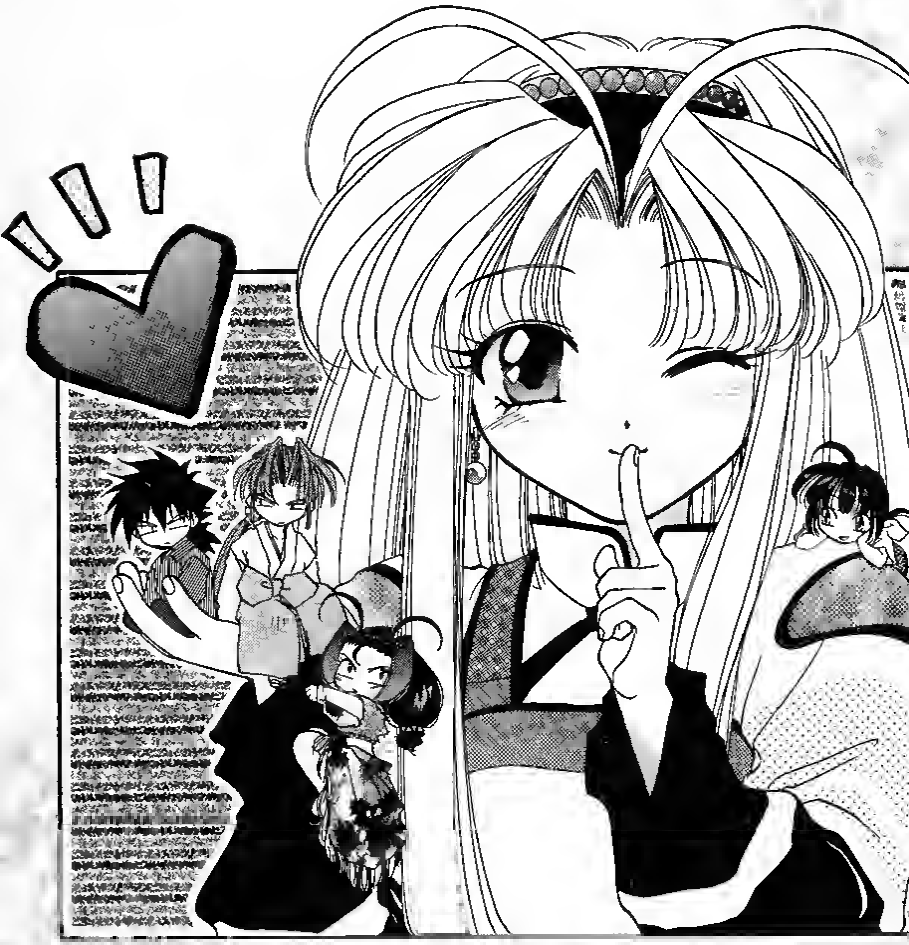

HE'LL DIE...
NO!!!
THEY UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.
ふり

IF I STACK THREE METAL DRUMS TOGETHER AND LENGTHEN THE CANNON...
...I CAN IMPROVE THE ACCURACY!!
IT'S REALLY JUST SOME TAPE.
I'LL EVEN ATTACH A SIGHT.
NOW THE AIM IS PERFECT!!
HOW ABOUT IT? YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN.
ADDED FUNCTIONALITY!
IF YOU'RE THAT CONCERNED...
...THEN I'LL GIVE YOU THE SUPER-DELUXE SYSTEM!!
SHE IS DEADLY SERIOUS.

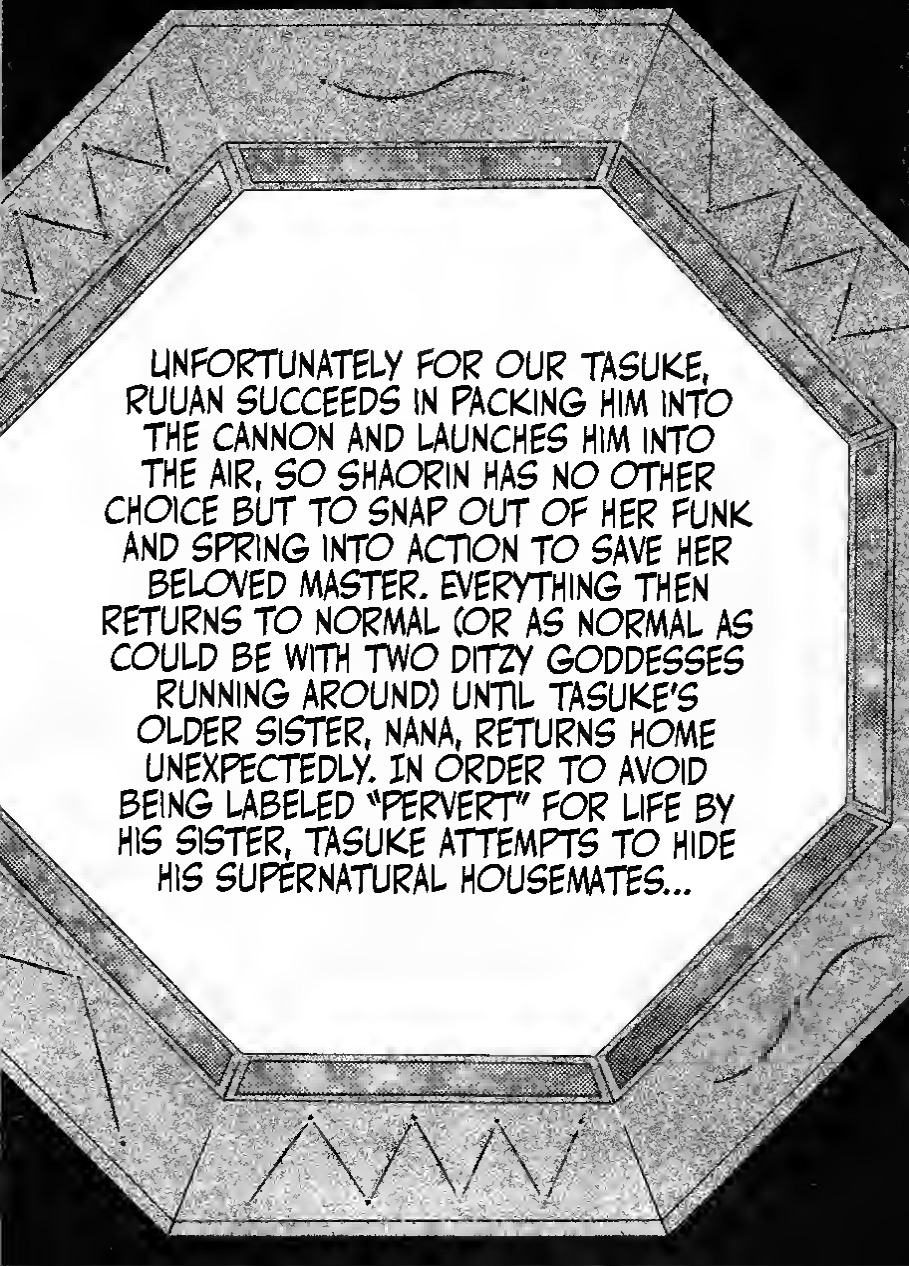
...THAT'S WHY IT HURTS SO MUCH TO BE WITH HIM.
...IS NOT MY MASTER...
MASTER TASUKE...
WELL...
...IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN...

...MAYBE YOU SHOULD DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM TASUKE.
IF IT'S HARD TO BE WITH HIM, THEN...
...THAT COULD BE A SIGN THAT IT'S TIME TO LEAVE HIM.
BUT...I WANT TO BE...
.....
.....


...WITH MASTER TASUKE!..
COME ON HURRY UP AND GET IN!
I DON'T WANT TO!! I DON'T WANT TO DIE IN THIS THING!
SHE SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING...
SHOULDN'T WE STOP HER?
TEACHER YOU'RE AMAZING



IF YOU'RE PURE OF HEART YOU'LL SEE THIS NEXT VOLUME PREVIEW...


UNFORTUNATELY FOR OUR TASUKE, RUUAN SUCCEEDS IN PACKING HIM INTO THE CANNON AND LAUNCHES HIM INTO THE AIR, SO SHAORIN HAS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO SNAP OUT OF HER FUNK AND SPRING INTO ACTION TO SAVE HER BELOVED MASTER. EVERYTHING THEN RETURNS TO NORMAL (OR AS NORMAL AS COULD BE WITH TWO DITZY GODDESSES RUNNING AROUND) UNTIL TASUKE'S OLDER SISTER, NANA, RETURNS HOME UNEXPECTEDLY. IN ORDER TO AVOID BEING LABELED "PERVERT" FOR LIFE BY HIS SISTER, TASUKE ATTEMPTS TO HIDE HIS SUPERNATURAL HOUSEMATES...

TWO BOOKS IN ONE, DON'CHA KNOW!
AND SO MUCH MORE!

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